



FY 2005 QUARTERLY REPORT (4TH QUARTER)

Cooperative Agreement No. 119-A-00-00-00039-00

**Civic Education
On-Site Technical Assistance**

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

**Submitted to the
U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
By IFES**

July 1, 2005 – September 30, 2005

I. OVERVIEW

IFES efforts in Kazakhstan during the fourth quarter were centered on conducting three Democracy Summer Camps (two national and one regional¹), making enhancements to its civic education textbook for use during the upcoming school year, conducting teacher training, and preparing for a new slate of Student Action Committee and Student Local Government Day activities across the country. In addition, the announcement of presidential elections to be held on December 4 caused a political buzz, and IFES discussed the possibilities of rendering technical assistance for the elections with USAID. Although IFES was ultimately not approved to provide technical assistance or conduct other activities with other partners in preparation for the elections, it did receive numerous requests to do so from the Central Election Commission and the Kazakh Embassy in the United States. IFES remained in touch with USAID and other international donors and assistance providers such as the OSCE to determine the possibility of rendering appropriate assistance and advice as the run-up to the election moved forward.

IFES engaged in intense negotiations with the Ministry of Education regarding the civics textbook project, working hard to gain their active endorsement of the project. IFES also worked with the Teacher's Retraining Institute, Academy of Education, Textbook Center and the Year 12 Center² to establish a system by which to train civics teachers using the Interactive Classroom Management methodology IFES established for teaching the civics course using the IFES-developed³ textbook. By quarter's end, IFES was on the verge of inserting itself as a regular contributor to both institutions in instructing teachers how to use interactive teaching methods, even beyond the study of civics and into other subjects. This was a perhaps somewhat understated achievement during the quarter, as IFES established serious inroads with correlates of the Ministry of Education that work on both training of teachers and establishment of curriculum content. IFES learned during the quarter that major curriculum changes are currently afoot, including those that will result from the establishment of a 12th grade of study for students. At present, serious discussions are taking place on curriculum content, and IFES has worked diligently to promote civics as a stand-alone course, with the IFES textbook as a mainstay of civics study in the country. The opportunity has presented itself for IFES to continue working with the Ministry and its feeder institutions to gain approval for the content and approach to the study of civics that may garner general acceptance once the final changes are announced. This will require continued marketing of the current project(s) through Year Three of the Cooperative Agreement extension as well as over the successive period as final decisions are rendered.

¹ IFES held its first-ever Regional Democracy Summer Camp involving approximately 60 students from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic in July at the Tau-Samal Sanatorium near Almaty.

² The Ministry of Education plans to add a 12th grade of study by 2008.

³ IFES originally piloted its textbook project in 1999, maintaining 34 participating schools. Contents of the book were developed by IFES in conjunction with local academics and practitioners. The "local ownership" of the project was further established through conclusion of a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding with the Kazakh Ministry of Education.

For the reporting period as well as upcoming quarters, IFES has focused on meeting or exceeding its workplan mandate as negotiations with the Ministry of Education on formalization of all activities continues in earnest. The upcoming year will be critical to the long-term success of the IFES project and, by extrapolation, the future of civics as part of the national curriculum in Kazakhstan.

II. PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES

Civic Education Textbook Project in Kazakhstan

With an eye toward Year Three of the Cooperative Agreement extension, IFES reviewed the final version of the methodology section of the Russian language version of its civic education textbook and made necessary corrections and enhancements based on the input of staff, teachers, students and education professionals. Among the changes included a list of proverbs, which was compiled for the book and included as an appendix. The reference list was translated into Kazakh as well as Russian.

IFES staff compiled information for Chapters 12-15 and incorporated changes and additions to the Kazakh language version of the book. Informational requests were submitted to the, Kazakhstani Parliament, Center for Self-governance Development (East Kazakhstan), International Bureau of Human Rights of Kazakhstan, NDI, and the Central Election Commission. IFES also sent an informational request for the book to Senator Zauresh Batalova. In addition, IFES staff members conducted an interview with the representatives of the Homeowners Association in order to enhance the section of the book dealing with property rights.

The Kazakh language version of the Teacher's Guide was edited for format and content. IFES staff members also made final corrections to the Russian language version of the Teacher's Guide. IFES analyzed and inserted all corrections and comments provided by the Kazakh Academy of Education into the generic Teacher's Guide⁴ and best lessons collected from IFES teachers and continued working on its layout.

IFES staff members completed the layout of the Russian language student book, reviewed by the editor, and incorporated changes in the final version. IFES printed seven copies of the book for distribution to the Ministry of Education, Academy of Education, Textbook Center and Year 12 Center.

IFES drafted a letter to IFES pilot schools administration and teachers asking for their assistance in encouraging student participation in a drawing competition IFES sponsored to upgrade the visual appeal of the textbook. The drawings rendered by the winners will be included in the second volume of the textbook.

⁴ IFES has developed a teacher's guide on Interactive Classroom Management that is applicable to any course of study in the national curriculum of Kazakhstan.

IFES' staff member visited three print houses, Kitap, Fortress and Zhazusy, in Almaty in order to receive estimates on the printing costs for the textbook, generic Teacher's Guide and voter education booklet. The final estimates will be ready in October.

IFES sent 60 textbooks, Teacher's Guides, and chapter evaluation forms to the Kazakh school in Karatau.

The database of schools was updated through the forms completed by the regional coordinators. IFES staff members also compiled a list of Taldykorgan regional schools.

Civic Education Teacher Training

IFES agreed with the Republican Teachers Retraining Institute to join efforts in October to conduct training of trainers for thirty Russian speaking educators on October 10 - 11. The IFES team worked on drafting the agenda for the training as the quarter came to a close. Materials for future seminars on learning theory for the Academy were also prepared.

Student Action Committees (SAC)

IFES had a meeting with Ms. Sidorkina from the IATP center in which the SAC web site was discussed. It was also decided that an IFES staff member will participate in the IATP web design training in order to encourage contributions from students.

IFES' staff member and the representative in Astana conducted preparations for the SAC training in Astana. They developed the work plan, modules, and certificates. Forty students and six teachers from twenty schools attended the training on September 16 - 18. IFES representatives in Astana handled all organizational issues and the IFES staff member from Almaty conducted the training.

During the quarter, IFES staff also discussed future trainings on SAC in Kostanai and Taldykorgan regions to be held in October, and explored the opportunities for partnership with the "Teenager" center. In the last part of September, IFES began preparing for the next SAC training, to be held in October in Kostanai.

Student Local Government Day (SLGD)

IFES staff members completed the revision of Russian and Kazakh versions of the SLGD manual to be used by students, teachers and local government officials. The manual in both Russian and Kazakh languages was ready for printing as the quarter came to a close.

National Democracy Summer Camps (DSC)

IFES Kazakhstan held two national Democracy Summer Camps in Aktau and Pavlodar and one Regional Camp near Almaty. IFES staff worked with its local networks and the Association of Young Leaders in the organization and conducting of the Camps.

The first camp was held in Aktau from July 2 - 12. The second camp was conducted in Pavlodar from August 1 - 9. IFES staff organized the first camp of 75 students in Aktau, while IFES representatives in Astana coordinated the second camp of 75 participants from northern Kazakhstan. Final reports for both camps were completed and edited by IFES staff in Almaty and Washington by the quarter's close.

The focus of the two camps was on tolerance and conflict resolution, with students taking part in classroom instruction and, more importantly, in interactive group activities such as simulations and role playing in which they demonstrated critical thinking and gained appreciation for resolving disputes amicably through discussion rather than conflict. Students also learned about the value of volunteerism through a special session which introduced them to Student Action Committees. It is anticipated that students who attended the two camps will replicate the SACs in their schools once the new school year commences. IFES and its regional coordinators will monitor their efforts during the next and successive quarters.

Regional Democracy Summer Camp

The regional camp session began on July 10 and continued through July 19. IFES' Chief of Party worked with the Bilim-Central Asia on finding a specialist to present on the topic of "religious extremism" to the summer camp participants. Overall, 59 students participated in the regional summer camp. Twenty students came from Kyrgyzstan, twenty students from Tajikistan and nineteen from Kazakhstan. Students were divided into three groups and the groups had participation from all three countries in each group. IFES Kazakhstan Program Coordinator Marat Bigaliev and the two locally-based trainers worked during the camp to conduct all trainings and manage logistics. Excellent coordination was established with the IFES offices from the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan.

The Regional Summer Camp Agenda included nine days of training and was divided into three cycles:

Cycle I

- 1 Who is a Leader?
- 2 Learning to Work Together
- 3 Implementing the First projects

Cycle II

- 4 Developing Our Countries
- 5 Learning to Manage Conflicts
- 6 Establishing Inter-Governmental Connections

Cycle III

- 7 What Type of Leaders Do We Need?
- 8 Tolerance and Peaceful Cooperation
- 9 Joint Activity on Inter-Governmental Projects

Each cycle was divided into three days. In the first cycle, on Day One, students established three “countries” and created their own Election Commission to hold their elections.

Each country adopted a different governmental system, and each cycle began with the election of the corresponding authorities. In the presidential system, students elected only the president, while in the presidential-parliamentary system, the students elected the president and the speaker of parliament. In the parliamentary system, students elected the deputies for the parliament. The ministries, committees and mass media were established after the elections.

The Regional Camp provided all students a unique opportunity to share and compare their experiences as young persons growing up in “emerging democracies” in various stages of development fourteen years after the fall of the Soviet Union. They received direct experience in designing and understanding government structures and the concept of public accountability, thereby underscoring the need for non-governmental, non-partisan monitors over the process of governance. There was frank talk concerning recent parliamentary elections in each of the countries and perceptions in general in the development of democracy in their own as well as neighboring countries in the region. Students made new contacts and friendships and were expected to share their experiences with peers back in their home counties as well as with their teachers and parents. Despite initial logistical challenges, the Regional Camp was conducted to a successful conclusion and provided ample testimony to the value of holding regional events for young persons. For the students from Kazakhstan, the experience broadened their horizons as to what they can achieve if they work hard and continue showing the dedication that brought them to the camp.

IFES Newsletter

IFES began developing a newsletter for its education partners. The newsletter will serve as an update on all program activities of the 2004 - 2005 school year. The previous newsletter was last distributed to partner schools in September 2004.

In addition, IFES prepared and sent letters to the regional coordinators informing them about IFES’ plans for the upcoming year. A new form for school monitoring has been updated and will be sent to the coordinators as well. They are responsible for performing the new monitoring of the IFES textbook project in terms of quality, quantity, and hours for civics course. They are also responsible for developing and updating school contact information.

IFES printed the Russian version of the newsletter. Five hundred copies were sent to pilot schools through the regional coordinators. The English version was first sent to IFES-DC for review and final approval.

Election Issues

Working after hours, the IFES team in Kazakhstan responded to several informational requests from the Central Election Commission

IFES-Kazakhstan Chief of Party Jennifer Wilson and staff members, working after hours on their own time, observed Senate elections in Almaty, while in Astana the IFES local representative did likewise. USAID was informed of this effort separately. In Almaty, 36 members of the Maslikhat cast their votes resulting in the election of Akhan Byzhanov of “Otan.” In Astana, 20 of 22 votes confirmed the re-election of Amanzhol Bulekpaev.

The CEC repeatedly expressed an interest in meeting with Ms. Wilson. As a result, IFES COP and the Astana representative attended two meetings with Ms. Okhlopkova at the Central Election Committee while in Astana on civic education business with the Ministry of Education. They made inquiries about the information to be included in the textbook. Ms. Wilson suggested several areas in need for improvement. IFES provided Ms. Okhlopkova with the copies of the Kyrgyz EC/Observers Training Manual and voter education materials. Ms. Okhlopkova was particularly pleased with the Kyrgyz poster illustrating the proper folding of ballots. Ms. Okhlopkova seems to be supportive of voter education projects. She encouraged IFES to pursue projects similar to those in Kyrgyzstan, to which IFES responded it could pursue only with donor approval and funding.

Ms. Okhlopkova requested that IFES assist them with obtaining an international calendar of elections, information in Russian on international election laws, contact information for international organizations working with elections and CECs in other countries and materials for training international observers. IFES provided Ms. Okhlopkova with the requested materials. She also invited IFES to observe the Presidential elections in December. Ms. Okhlopkova was glad that IFES participated in the Senate elections. She would like IFES participation in the CEC trainings in Almaty and Astana. Again, IFES indicated that it is not presently funded to work in the area of elections, though it would pursue appropriate assistance funding upon consultations with donors including USAID.

Jennifer Wilson attended the OSCE/ODIHR needs assessment meeting along with the representatives of NDI, IRI and UNDP. It is clear that IFES has the closest relationship with the Kazakh government and the CEC. UNDP has no plans to conduct any projects in relation to elections this year. NDI will create materials on the rights and responsibilities of voters, ECs and observers. IRI plans to conduct a survey and work with focus groups and conduct exit polling. IFES efforts to be included on a CEPPS project to provide election assistance were unsuccessful, as its two partner organizations appear to have already designated themselves to assume all project activities offered under that mechanism.

IFES – Astana

During the quarter, the IFES representative in Astana began monitoring the new pilot schools in Astana. She also conducted regular meetings with the Ministry of Education. She provided the Year 12 Center with a draft Protocol of Understanding and initiated the process of developing a POU between IFES and the Astana Department of Education.

IFES' representative in Astana regularly attended meetings at the City Department of Education. She introduced them to IFES programs and provided them with brief information on the two-day SAC training in Astana.

IFES' presence in Astana has greatly enhanced its visibility and access to the Ministry of Education and local education departments in the north of the country. The last year underscored the importance of having an active presence in the capital, as discussions and negotiations regarding the future sustainability of the textbook and other projects have grown more intense.

III. PARTNERS

Ministry of Education

IFES' COP and IFES' representative in Astana conducted several meetings with partners from the Ministry of Education and its correlate offices.

IFES' COP and IFES' representative in Astana met with Bizhan Igenbaeva at the 12-year center. Ms. Igenbaeva formerly worked on Kazakh language translation for the civic education textbook and is familiar with IFES and its projects. According to the plans for development of a 12-year educational system in Kazakhstan, all high schools will be "profiled" schools. There will be no general education program. Ms. Igenbaeva offered to help IFES by reviewing the book and identifying which profile the civics course can fit into. She also said that they can incorporate IFES' textbook into their pilot school project when the program for senior classes is developed. There will be five different "profiles" and it seems that IFES' course will best fit into the "profound training in legal and public disciplines" track. Ms. Igenbaeva is also interested in working with IFES on various training projects, conferences and seminars. She also provided IFES with very useful recommendations on how to get the evaluation and approval for the textbook.

Ms. Wilson and local staff representative Bibisara Beisenbayeva also met with several people in the Textbook Center, including the Director, Ms. Abylkasymova. IFES provided the center with a copy of the textbook and supporting documents and asked if the procedures for the textbook evaluation and approval had been established. The Textbook Center, however, was still establishing those procedures.

The Textbook Center has requested that IFES conduct a seminar about the textbook project and methodologies on October 14-15. IFES has agreed to conduct the seminar

and will use the opportunity to invite other partners within the Ministry and its subdivisions. The Textbook Center expressed an interest in working with IFES within the framework of seminars, conferences and workshops.

Ms. Wilson and the Astana office representative then met with the Center for Evaluation of the Quality of Education. The Center for Evaluation of the Quality of Education sees IFES as a resource. They are interested in any assistance and information that can be used for evaluating the criteria for quality of education. The center representative informed IFES about the large amount of data that has been collected over the years but never analyzed. The center is in need of a specialist. This may be an area in which Civic Education Consultant Simon Jenkins can be of assistance.

IFES presented Ministry officials with the textbook and the supporting documents. IFES also took the opportunity to remind them that the project ends in 2006 and therefore, requires immediate attention. Ms. Ispusinova ordered to regard IFES' textbook as a priority and address the issue immediately. IFES pointed out to the difficulty of working with the Textbook Center.

Academy of Education

COP, IFES' staff and IFES' representative in Astana met with the Vice Presidents of the Academy Makpal Zhadrina and Adilkhan Duisebek. They discussed future joint projects, including trainings to be conducted at the Academy and the Ministry of Education. They also talked about the current status of educational reform in Kazakhstan and the publication of a generic Teacher's Guide for use in Kazakhstan.

IFES received feedback from the working group of the Academy assisting IFES with the editing of the Generic Teacher's Guide. The working group made some suggestions and comments to be reviewed by IFES' COP and staff and the Vice President of the Academy.

Other Organizations

IFES' COP met with NDI Country Director Sheila Ballen. They discussed the impact of the newly adopted laws on national security and their affect on NDI and IRI work in Kazakhstan. Both organizations are primarily funded to work with political parties and the new laws explicitly prohibit such work. NDI is continuing to work on its programs. They are, however, unsure if they will be able to continue their work if the new legislation is enforced.

IFES' COP and other staff members attended the American Chamber of Commerce Corporate Social Responsibility Working Group meeting. The American Chamber of Commerce has sent a letter to the President asking him to veto the NGO draft laws.

IFES' Kazakhstan COP met with the Rule of Law Liaison for ABA CEELI, Lynn Kocen. They discussed possibilities for cooperation in conducting educational programs, in particular IFES' civic education program and ABA's course on ethics.

IFES obtained copies of IRI's National Voter Study (July 2004) and Majilis 2004 Campaign Monitoring reports for use as informational sources in the civic education textbook's chapter on elections that includes information about political parties.

IFES' staff member met with the Deputy Director of the Republican Recertification Institute for Teachers (RRIT), Mr. Semchenko, in order regenerate cooperation, provide an update on current IFES programs and discuss the possibility of joint efforts in conducting a five-day training for educators in November 2005. IFES has been closely working with the RRIT in 2000 – 2003 on civic education textbook seminars, SAC projects, and the student tournament. The two organizations signed an agreement which expired in September 2003.

Both parties agreed to update the mutual Agreement and to continue their cooperation. They will hold a two-week training course on the "Role of Methodology Supply and Increasing Quality of Education of Humanitarian Subjects in Conditions of Entering into the Worldwide Education Field." Thirty Kazakh speakers, civic education trainers and active teachers from regions will be attending a two-week training course from November 7 - 18. IFES will conduct its training on November 14 - 18.

IV. MATERIALS PRODUCED

- Updated SAC manual in Kazakh language.
- Civic Education newsletter in Kazakh and Russian.
- Updated color brochures on IFES projects in Kazakh, Russian and English.
- Final report from the Regional Summer Camp in Almaty.

V. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Among the most significant developments and project achievements of the quarter, IFES notes that:

- IFES and the Academy of Education are working on a joint project for creating a Generic Teacher's Guide for Kazakhstan by adapting the Kyrgyz text. The publication will also include a collection of the best lessons developed by IFES teachers in all oblasts of Kazakhstan.
- The Editor in Chief of the "Teacher of Kazakhstan" newspaper, Alla Tkhostova, interviewed the COP on IFES projects. The information provided by IFES was included in the newspaper.
- Many new schools in and around Almaty and Astana have started using the latest edition of the textbook. The geographical proximity of the new schools has improved IFES' ability to support and monitor them.

- The local media has taken interest in IFES and all of the civic education projects. The Kazakh radio 101 interviewed an IFES staff member on IFES' activities and projects.
- Government bodies such as the CEC, Academy of Education and the Republican Teachers Retraining Institute have demonstrated a desire to work more closely with IFES-Kazakhstan.
- The CEC is very supportive of IFES and any assistance it can provide for the upcoming presidential elections.

Yet many challenges continue to present themselves, some ongoing and some new. Among them are:

Elections

IFES has not yet been able to obtain a professional interpretation of the election law and there is still some concern about Chapter 6, Article 33, Point 3 that states: "Financing of elections in the Republic on the part of international organizations and international public associations, foreign state bodies, foreign juridical persons and citizens, and also stateless persons, and their direct or indirect participation in financing of elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan is forbidden." This raised concern that IFES, should it obtain funding from USAID or another donor to conduct election assistance activities, which would first be cleared with USAID and the Embassy, would be completely or partially restricted, in spite of the CEC's clear openness to IFES doing work in this sector.

Regarding the Senate elections, no violations were recorded during the voting process. OSCE, however, received a complaint about people being pressured in Astana prior to the Election Day. During the election, IFES staff observed a lack of certainty regarding some procedures on the part of the CEC and a lack of instructions given to the voters (Maslikhat members). Those observations can be used to demonstrate the need for an EC/observers manual and voter education project in Kazakhstan.

Administrative

IFES moved its office in Almaty for the remainder of the current Cooperative Agreement extension. IFES also moved part of its resource center to the National Library in Almaty. IFES' *Information Corner* is now open to the public.

Other

- The new laws on national security were signed by the President. According to the new law, it is illegal for foreign citizens to provide funding to political parties and include other vague restrictions that have not been defined.
- Internal issues within the Ministry of Education continue to hamper greater progress on the textbook project. IFES was encouraged, however, at the reception IFES' international and local staff received during visits to the Ministry. IFES' office in Astana has proven to be a catalyst in improving access and overall working relations.

- Difficulties have occurred in cooperation with the Textbook Center. The director of the center requested an official request for the evaluation and payment for the service or a letter from the Ministry of Education confirming that IFES should not pay for the service.
- Ongoing inspections by local government bodies consume large amounts of time and interfere with the flow of project work.
- More improvements need to be made for monitoring and tracking information about all the projects, which is complicated by limited resources and the vastness of the country.

VI. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Performance Indicator	Indicator Definition & Unit of Measure	Data Source	Data for Q4 FY 2005	Data FY 2005 (Q1+Q2+Q3+Q4)	Projections for FY 2005
Curriculum Development					
# of New Students Participating in the Civic Education Course	Student Participation and Reach of the Textbook and New Teaching Methodologies	Participating Schools	0 ⁵	63 new schools; 2,527 new students	20 new schools and 600 new students added
Teacher Trainings					
# of teachers participated (# of trainings conducted)	Teacher Participation and Reach of New Teaching Methodologies	IFES	0 (Trainings to commence in October)	261 teachers, 9 trainings	300 teachers trained
Student Action Committees					
# New Students Participating in SACs (# of Women)	Student Participation and Reach of Extracurricular Civic Education	Teachers/ Mentors	0 (SACs to resume next quarter)	756 students (510 women)	240 students participating

⁵ Since Q4 is summer months there are no new school based program numbers to add.

	Activities				
# of SACs Formed (# of Activities)	Reach and Activeness of SACs	Teachers/Mentors	0 (SACs to resume next quarter)	30 SACs formed in FY05; 77 events/activities conducted	16 new SAC events conducted
Student Local Government Days					
# of Students (# of Government Officials) Participating in SLGD	Student Participation and Reach of Extracurricular Civic Education Activities That Promote Real-Life Learning	IFES	0 (SLGDs to resume next quarter)	428 students, 268 officials, 21 SLGDs	160 students participated in SLGDs held in 8 different locations
Democracy Summer Camps					
# of Camps conducted (# of students participated)	Student Participation and Reach of Extracurricular Civic Education Activities That Promote Real-Life Learning	IFES	3 (1 regional; 2 local); 167 students	3 (1 regional – 20 participants ; 2 local – 147 participants); 167 student participants	1 local camp for 75 participants; Sought additional funding to send Kazakhstan students to the regional camp
Information Resources					
# of Hits on the Website	Awareness and Interest in IFES Resources	IFES	n/a	2203 (# of hits on KZ site)	No projected amount, other than an increase over previous reporting year.