
THE COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM

NGO INITIATIVE FOR CENTRAL ASIA

QUARTERLY REPORT

APRIL 1- JUNE 30, 1997

Submitted to USAID/Almaty

COUNTERPART International, Inc.

**910 17th St., NW, Ste. 328
Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: 202-296-9676
Fax: 202-296-9679**

**100 Shevchenko St.
Almaty, Kazakstan
Tel: 7-3272-625-009
Fax: 7-3272-692-997**

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APRIL 1 - JUNE 30, 1997

Grantee's Name: Counterpart Foundation, Inc.
Cooperative Agreement No.: 110-0007-G-00-4020-00
Effective Date: September 25, 1994
Consortium Partners: Aid to Artisans
The Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs
Goodwill Industries International
Period Covered in this report: April 1 - June 30, 1997

Program Goal:

To help citizens of Central Asia more actively and effectively participate in political and economic decision making.

Program Purpose:

To create effective, democratic and sustainable non-governmental organizations in Central Asia capable of expressing citizens' interests, providing services to vulnerable groups within the population, and working in sectors critical to the economic, political and social development of the region.

Intended Impact:

NGOs provide financially sustainable services not provided by government.

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I. OVERVIEW OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT

This report marks a milestone in the Counterpart Consortium NGO Support Initiative for Central Asia. It is the last report under the original 2.5 year time frame of the project. With funding for an extension, the project now continues an additional 2.5 years. A number of important changes will take place in the project.

This month, we welcome new staff and say good-bye to a number of people who have played important roles in the success of the project. Regional Director Len Klein departs June 30 and will be replaced by David Smith at the beginning of August. Finance Manager Anwar Samad departs June 30. His replacement, Bob Abma, arrived in Almaty on June 15. Uzbekistan Country Director Melanie Reimer, also departs June 30. Her replacement, Blair Sheridan, formerly the intern in the Kazakhstan office, arrived in Tashkent on June 23.

At the end of June, we say good-bye to our partner Goodwill Industries International, and welcome our new partner, the International Center for Not-for-profit Law (ICNL). ICNL will have a field director based in Almaty and will operate in all five countries of the region through local partner organizations.

Under the extension, new satellite offices will be opening throughout the region. The first of these new satellites opened this month in Khojand, Tajikistan.

Another important change is a revision in the reporting format. Both monthly and quarterly formats will be significantly streamlined for clarity and to eliminate redundancy, while retaining all key elements. (The new format has been previously submitted to USAID.) The new format will be implemented beginning with the July report (although ATA has begun using the new format in this report.)

At the end of June, 25 delegates from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan arrived in Washington as part of Counterpart's Global Training for Development (GTD) delegation in NGO Management and Leadership. This delegation will be in the United States for nearly a month and will be followed by a similar delegation from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Although funded by the Academy for Educational Development, through the GTD program, these delegations are valuable for the NGO Support Initiative in building upon the training that participants receive in Central Asia.

II. BROAD SECTOR SUPPORT: COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Counterpart project component is:

To identify and empower a broad array of Central Asian non-governmental organizations in both rural and urban areas, regardless of sectoral focus.

B. NARRATIVE

1. Kazakstan

A. Highlights

Impacts

- A.1. In the opinion of the COP, two of the most significant accomplishments of the Kazakstan effort occurred during April, and both on the same day. The first ever open hearing for the Kazakstan Parliament was held, initiated by two of our grantees, SATR and Akbota. This hearing allowed interested and knowledgeable individuals to present to the Parliament research information from other western countries and Kazakstan on necessary laws to protect citizens with disabilities. The USAID Mission and the American Embassy had anticipated that this initial open hearing would be on economic issues.
- A.2. Secondly in April, the Almaty Business Women's Organization, our grantee, opened their Women's Training Center, which will address the needs of unemployed women in the area, and expand their programming to other oblasts in the country. They were able, because of support and training from Counterpart to secure major funding from Eurasia and Chevron. The opening ceremonies were attended by Ambassador Jones, Mission Director Buckles, the COP, and other significant local government personalities.
- A.3. The CESO Volunteers spent a worthwhile month with the Special Olympics of Kazakstan.

Grant Activities

- A.4. The Almaty office showed significant surpluses in individual grants because of cost saving actions by the Financial Director in April.
- A.5. Most grants should be completed by the scheduled date of June 10, 1997. Those grants left open on that date, because of extenuating circumstances, will be monitored by the grants manager and CD in each country, to ensure contract compliance.

Training Sessions

- A.6. In addition to our normal trainings in April, the Almaty Office conducted a special Media Training in Ust Kamenegorsk, for the Green Party NGO. This training was completely funded by the NGO, and shows once again the credibility of CC's trainers and programming. In coordination with the UNDP, a Women's Political Leadership Workshop in Semipalatinsk was conducted by Mansiya, again all costs being picked up by the UNDP. Interlegal conducted a trial two-day training on legal issues for NGOs that was monitored by Jay Cooper, the Training Director, and other CC trainers. The initial evaluations by CC staff and the participants were quite favorable.
- A.7. At the suggestion of the COP in April, Marat Aitmagambetov facilitated a two hour workshop for 35 FSN employees of USAID/Almaty. The purpose was to do a needs assessment on social services that are not currently being delivered. Hopefully, after more of these assessments are done, USAID can target specific programs for their contractors. Marat also conducted a 1/2 day session requested by ABA, to support the forming Chimkent Bar Association.

Partnerships

- A.8. The WLCI Partnership was re-instated during the month of April after a new contract was received from the U.S. naming a new western partner.
- A.9. In May, the COP submitted to Mission Director Buckles a selected list of CEOs, which could be invited to the CAR by the mission. These linkages could facilitate partnerships with Kazakstani Associations which currently exist. This request from the mission is in line with the USAID's New Partnership Initiative.
- A.10. It is the opinion of the COP that partnerships should be initiated at the highest level, CEO to CEO, rather than staff to staff. If there is interest and a commitment from the CEO, he/she will have subordinate staff implement the relationship. Association partnerships such as the League of Women Voters in the US and the Consortium of Women's Organization of Kazakstan, both lobbying organizations, although on different levels, are an example.

Participation in External Events

- A.11. The COP attended the gallery openings of two of our grantees in April, a Naruz celebration for disabled children (ARDI), and the opening of the Business Women's Association Training Center and their celebration of Naruz.
- A.12. In April, the COP attended the donor meeting of the UNDP and the Akim from Kyzlorda. Information on the new economic zone was presented. Counterpart was the fourth largest contributor of financial aid to the region, and the COP pledged our continued support to Aral Sea programs.

- A.13. There were several meetings at USAID during the month of April. These meeting included R4 input, support for the typhoid epidemic in Tajikistan, support for the water purification project in Turkmenistan, and a presentation of the IFES survey from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.
- A.14. In April, Arlene Lear had meetings with the UNDP in Kazakstan, USAID/Almaty, effective NGOs, last year's NET participants, this year's Global Training participants, international business organizations, and prospective COP replacements.
- A.15. In May, Counterpart and the COP participated in a Special Olympics Conference on Fundraising and Strategic Planning, invited were Special Olympics representatives from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.
- A.16. The COP participated in the organizational meeting of the Kazakstan Association of People with Disabilities this May.

Other Programming Activities

- A.17. In April, the COP learned that a new committee of the Parliament will be doing original research into social and economic issues confronting the Kazak Republic. This committee was established because of the unreliability of the statistics that flow from government institutions.
- A.18. Counterpart was recognized by the UNDP, as the local experts on NGO Development, and given a seat on the Executive Board of the newly formed UNDP Resource Center for Public Organizations.
- A.19. The Association of Youth Support, as a result of Counterpart training was able to receive a grant from Mobile Oil, in the amount of \$43,000 to purchase computers for the youth training component.
- A.20. The Akim of Panfilov Rayon formally thanked Counterpart for the support by *The Women of the Orient*, who provided humanitarian aid in the amount of \$4000.
- A.21. Appearing on the Internet were two advertisements from our grantees. The first about the *Center for Conflict Management*, and the second *The Information and Research Center for Civic Education*, Almaty, Kazakstan.
- A.22. Our accounting NGO, which is providing financial management training on a pro bono basis, has printed their accounting pamphlet to be used by NGOs
- A.23. During the month of June, the organizational conference for the *Kazakstani Association for People With Disabilities* took place. It was attended by over 40 organizations from all over Kazakstan. It is interesting to note that the grant given for this conference only

included funds for the conference hall and banquet. All other funds were supplied by the individual organizations themselves.

B. Issues/Problems

- B.1. The data base continues to be problematic regarding updating information. This is caused by lagging data input and delays in transmitting the updated information to all offices. This problem has been addressed by expanding the number of database personnel in the program extension.
- B.2. Future Proposal Writing Training will put more emphasis on the M&E section of the proposal. Recipients do not fully understand the purpose of this section.
- B.3. Our lawyer informed us that CC has been re-classified as a "Charitable Foundation," Category 5. This will enable Counterpart to receive funds from the Kramds Bank Bankruptcy, when and if money is available from the sale of fixed assets.
- B.4. With the May 30th departure of Kai Nissley, the Project Manager at USAID/Almaty, we lost one of our strongest supporters. We will all miss her.
- B.5. The preparations for moving the Almaty office have been quite complex. Issues such as leases (both old and new); preparing the old and new space, as per contract; transferring phone lines and setting up computer networks; locating additional furnishings for the new office, were dealt with on a day to day basis.
- B.6. The Counterpart Program has been transferred from the Office of Social Transition to the Office of Democratic Transition, under Eileen Wickstrom. The reason for this change was that our program and its objectives have evolved to a point where they are more closely aligned to the new office.

C. Lessons Learned

- C.1. It is now necessary for all registered organization to register additionally with the Kazakstan Bureau of Statistics, in order to do customs clearance and to make visa applications.
- C.2. Moving into a new office; at the same time trying to introduce a new senior staff member to the program; buying office equipment; providing transitional information to USAID/Almaty; packing and shipping personal effects to the US is no easy matter.
- C.3. There is a travel agency in Almaty that is able to issue Kyrgyz visas in less than one day. This method was used to get the Financial Director to the staff retreat at Issuk-Kul.
- C.4. The staff retreat at Issuk-Kul was a welcomed reward for a job well done, for all the staff,

including administrative.

D. Project Changes

- D.1. The new Regional Director was hired, and will be in the CAR by mid-August. The new Financial Director arrived in mid-June and spent the remainder of the month meeting people and learning about the program.
- D.2. Counterpart/Almaty's intern departed for his new post as Country Director of Uzbekistan.

E. Coordination and Cooperation

- E.1. In April, the COP supported the U.S. State Department's efforts by introducing the State Department's specialist on refugees to the Afghan Refugees Women's Association.
- E.2. The COP renewed his relationship with the managing Director of Almaty Coca Cola this April.
- E.3. The COP met with several representative of INTRAC, including the London based Project Director and the new Bishkek field person. There was a common understanding of mutual interests and support in our new incarnation.
- E.4. In April, the COP acted as a judge in the Central Asian competition of SIFE Programs (university applied business programs).
- E.5. There was a meeting at the Academy of Science commemorating the opening of the new Semipalatinsk Nuclear Testing Health Clinic.
- E.6. There were several meetings with the Special Olympics concerning other sources of funds and their preparation for the CESO Volunteers, who arrived in May for a one month stay.
- E.7. There was a meeting with Interlegal to discuss the evaluation and recommended changes to the NGO Legal Module in April.
- E.8. IFES presented its research data on the citizens of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. It is interesting to note that a little less than 50% of those interviewed (1500) were aware of NGOs; and of those, less than half felt that NGOs could make a difference. This in itself is not that bad considering that we started from zero only two years ago.
- E.9. The COP developed a mini-consortium, consisting of C2HMhill, ISAR, USAID, Ken McNamara, Marshall Fischer and Counterpart, to jointly develop a Water Users Association in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan. The Mission Director has asked that such an association be in place before the end of the year.

- E.10. The UNDP meeting for NGO Resource Center took place. Counterpart is on the Executive Committee.
- E.11. The COP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNDP. This MOU will be an annex to the project paper to be signed by the government of Kazakstan, which will support the development of the Third Sector through the newly established UNDP NGO Resource Center.
- E.12. The COP has also cooperated with the new UNDP Gender Section, to promote micro enterprise development for women. In this same line, the COP offered suggestions to the Kazakstan Business Women's Association.
- E.13. The COP participated in the NGO Presentation at USIS on Fundraising for the Performing Arts.
- E.14. A representative of the Ford Foundation consulted with the COP concerning the growth and viability of NGOs in Central Asia, in preparation for a possible grants program.
- E.15. The COP spoke at the meeting of the Almaty Global Training for Development (GTD) participants.

F. Leveraging

- F.1. Counterpart has been in discussions with Almaty Coca Cola about participation in the Challenge Grant program.
- F.2. Counterpart arranged for volunteers from CESO (Canadian Executive Service Corps) to assist Kazakstan Special Olympics during the month of May.

2. Kyrgyzstan

A. Highlights

Impacts

- A.1. The "BIOM" Youth Ecological Movement's new program, "New Horizons," has been under way for five months. This new program was designed as an efficient way to train college and high school graduates in how to organize ecological NGOs in rural regions. This April a meeting was held with the project director, the project assistant and the newsletter editor-in-chief regarding recent accomplishments. These many accomplishments included:

1. Designing, issuing and distributing a newsletter in Kyrgyz and Russian every two months.
2. Installing an e-mail system to link with their counterparts throughout the world.
3. Organizing five round tables in Bishkek higher learning institutions.
4. Holding 11 training workshops in leadership for young leaders of rural ecological NGOs. In the average, the workshops are attended by 15-20 students.
5. Collaborating with ecological NGOs, schools, colleges, agencies providing public services, and the international community.

The students who are "BIOM" members are their greatest potential resource. After graduating from the University, they go back to their native villages and establish new ecological NGOs there. There is also currently an idea of creating a data base on skilled specialists and offer them job employment services.

- A.2. **SANITAS Humanitarian and Charitable Foundation** seeks to prevent people and especially youth from drug, alcohol, and tobacco addiction. The project is not only well-constructed and implemented, but also very useful as it concerns important issues facing Kyrgyz society. SANITAS's professionals prepared 18 one-hour programs entitled "Not Children Any Longer" to be aired on local radio and television. They have currently broadcast 6 times (four programs on national radio and two on the private radio station VOST). The programs provided information for parents to identify substance abuse problems among children.

SANITAS's program of training in Bishkek's schools is very intensive. During the grant period there were about 620 lectures and training seminars organized by trainers and doctors for teachers and students of secondary schools and vocational colleges. The seminars and lectures provide information about the problems of substance abuse, health issues, and statistics concerning abuse and substance-related violence. SANITAS also organized a series of lectures for inspectors for minors' affairs in local militia departments and for teachers in residential management offices. In addition, SANITAS trained employees of the new NGO "Yablochko" (Apple) at the their request and have signed an agreement with the AIDS Center to provide lectures.

One of the objectives of this project was organizing and conducting a survey on drug addiction and comparing the results with previous data. In cooperation with the International Association on the Struggle with Narcotics and Narcotics Trafficking in Moscow, SANITAS developed special questionnaires and received very interesting results. According to the data, about 69% of high school students are at risk (official data is far from these figures: on January 1, 1996 - 1590 drug addicted, and only 15 out of them are teenagers). SANITAS leaders made preliminary conclusions and gave them to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Roza Otunbayeva. On the basis of these conclusions, the UNDP promised to help continue their research in near future. The group anticipates completing their analysis of the survey results soon. The results will be included in a brochure that SANITAS is developing for educators.

About 15 people come to the Center for consultations every day. SANITAS's staff made about 5,332 professional reviews (medical/psychological exams by neurologists or psychiatrists) in secondary and vocational schools during grant period.

**A.3. Charitable Fund “EJIAD”
Name of Project “Alternative School Education”**

Charitable Fund “EJIAD” encourages the development of self-financed alternative schools (lyceums) in rural regions of Kyrgyzstan. The Fund introduced a new educational model based on the pattern “charitable funds-lyceums,” which is a new approach for fund-raising activities in order to support talented youth in villages. At first a fund is established and then it attracts potential resources to support a lyceum.

At present this model is efficiently functioning in 5-6 regions of Kyrgyzstan and the groups are willingly to share their experience with those who are pursuing the goal of creating similar structures in their communities. “EJIAD” acts as a support organization helping the groups to collect information, review and issue it in the form of a brochure to be further distributed among interested people. “EJIAD” designed and edited the brochure, but unfortunately it has not produced it yet. The project leader emphasized that there is a strong need to publish the brochure in Kyrgyz for rural areas of Kyrgyzstan.

“EJIAD” provides strong support of rural public organizations in the following ways:

- Creates and maintains a database on international and local donor organizations which could become potential partners of NGOs.
- Publishes a newsletter containing information on the organization and its activities.
- Helps lyceums to raise funds.
- Helps funds to get registered with the Ministry of Justice.
- Designs and distributes a set of standard documents required for the registration of charitable funds created by the model “fund-lyceum.”
- Develops and distributes educational and methodical materials among alternative schools.

**A.4. Talent Support Fund
Project “Traditional Crafts Revival in Kyrgyzstan”**

Talent Support Fund supports civil and cultural initiatives in the fields of education, culture and cultural tourism with a particular focus on artisans, children and women. The project “Traditional Crafts Revival in Kyrgyzstan” was designed to bring Kyrgyz artisans together and create a network of craft co-ops throughout the Republic. Within the project period, the Fund has accomplished most of the activities envisaged by the implementation plan as follows:

- Data on artisans and crafts were collected and a database was created.
- Artisans were brought together in groups and the network of co-ops was created Republic wide.
- Six on-site workshops in Kyrgyz were held in Oblasts and Rayons.
- Expert assessment of artisans' goods was accomplished.
- Consulting services on the quality of goods are being provided by TSF experts every Tuesday and Thursday.
- Internal and external marketing of craft goods is carried out on the regular basis.
- Five exhibitions of crafts were organized.
- A four-volume catalogue of the Kyrgyz crafts was designed.
- A salon for selling crafts was opened.

Talent Support Fund proves to be a very strong and sustainable organization which works hard to revive and develop the national Kyrgyz arts. A series of workshops held by the Fund was an effective tool to train the artisans in the issues such as writing and submitting grant proposals, basics of the occupational health, accident prevention, natural dyes, cost calculating, etc. Experts from different fields are invited to conduct the workshops. The TSF organizes the trips of artisans to the most advanced co-ops where they can exchange experience in how to develop the organizational structure of the crafts groups or efficiently manage the craftsmen. Moreover, the Fund helps artisans sell their goods, establish and maintain contacts with the international partners and promotes apprenticeship of young artisans with the experienced craftsmen. The main goal of the TSF, as it was stated by the project leader, is to help artisans to work on their own and become independent, but not to be monopolists in their field of activity. Sharing experience enables the artisans to improve the quality of goods and reduce prices. Business competition makes craftsmen more creative and design new models, samples and patterns. It was noted that the artisans' skills have been considerably improved due to the training activities and other measures undertaken by the Fund. The opening of the crafts salon was a very important event in the life of the Kyrgyz artisans. It looks like a real museum of the Kyrgyz arts which displays and sells a great variety of professionally made goods. In the first quarter of 1997 it generated 17,183 soms of which 14,270 soms were given out to craftsmen. However, the TSF team feels discouraged about the salon since it does not have a good location and there are some problems with its advertising. Currently they are looking for another place to house the shop. Dinara Chochunbaeva, the TSF Director, is a highly professional and dedicated specialist who made a significant contribution to the development of the TSF organizational capacity and artisans' movement in particular. She tirelessly works to involve artisans in extensive fundraising activities and to study the crafts demands in the domestic market and abroad. She has made several trips to India, Turkey, England and the US where she organized exhibits of the Kyrgyz artisans to publicize their crafts in the international arena. However, she emphasized a number of issues which need to be solved at this point:

- the establishment of the TSF branches in the Issuk-Kul and Osh Oblasts
- the design and publication of the TSF Newsletter to be distributed throughout the Republic

- access to the Internet in order to popularize the Kyrgyz arts world wide
- the need for office equipment for publishing their newsletter and accessing Internet

Training

- A.5. On April 1-3rd, Project Design Training was held in Bishkek and included 16 participants and 14 NGOs.
- A.6. On April 16,17 and 21st, Strategic Planning and Boards of Directors Trainings were held in Bishkek and included 17 participants and 14 NGOs.
- A.7. On April 23-25th, Project Design Training was held in Jalal-Abad and included 21 participants and 19 NGOs.
- A.8. During the month of May, four training workshops were conducted in Kyrgyzstan. There were two contracted NGO and Community Workshops, one Public Education Through the Media Workshop, and one Fundraising Workshop. The total number of NGOs trained was 55 and participants totaled 71.
- A.9. During the month of June, three training workshops were held in Kyrgyzstan. These included; NGO and the Community, June 9-10, Bishkek, 12 NGOs/20 participants; Strategic Planning, June 11-12, Bishkek, 12 NGOs/17 participants; and NGO and the Community, June 17-18, 25 NGOs/26 participants
- A.10. Counterpart Consortium held its first Central Asia retreat for staff from June 27 - 29. Counterpart staff from Central Asia had the opportunity to meet each other and learn of the recently extended support program for Central Asian NGOs. The two-day retreat was organized so that staff with the same or similar responsibilities in each country met in small groups to discuss their work and make suggestions to Counterpart.
- A.11. A Central Asia Counterpart contingent attended a seminar in Moscow which was designed to explore the possibilities of creating a network of NGO trainers in the NIS. Each country of CA was represented at the seminar and activity is taking place to develop an NGO training association.

Documents/Publications

- A.12. Mary Flad, an American living in Kyrgyzstan, has been working on the development of a standardized training manual for Counterpart Training workshops. The framework of the training manual is now in place and follow up will take place with the help of an intern to be hired. Drafts have been written of the sections (Introduction, Conceptual Statement, How to Use this Manual) which will precede the workshop outline. A new section on Preparation for the Training Workshop, Registration etc. has been written. The development of the training manuals for the program in Central Asia will add to the sustainability of the program, ensuring materials for training new trainers in the future.

Partnerships

- A.13. The Country Director visited the Counterpart Kara-Balta office on April 6th, which is supported by the UNHCR. The visit included traveling to two refugee communities outside of Kara-Balta with Helmut Buss, Director of the UNHCR-Kyrgyz Republic and Betsy Lippman of the US State Department who is responsible for funding to UNHCR in the NIS. Some funds are earmarked for NGO support exclusively.
- A.14. The Training Director, Jay Cooper, traveled to Tashkent on May 7th for a subsequent meeting with the Director of UNHCR for Uzbekistan. The meeting included Arlene Lear, Counterpart's Vice President for Programs and Melanie Reimer, Director of Counterpart in Uzbekistan. The topic of discussion was the potential cooperation with UNHCR in Uzbekistan using the Counterpart/UNHCR model from Kyrgyzstan.
- A.15. Potential cooperation with Counterpart was discussed in meetings during the month of May with the following organizations:
- Internews, Richard Wheeler: cooperation with private TV stations, open skies program, Counterpart's media program in upcoming extension
 - Eurasia Foundation, Dan Bliss: cooperation in the development of a website for NGOs in Central Asia

Events

- A.16. The Bishkek Counterpart office along with the US Embassy presented a photo exhibit in the hall of the Counterpart office entitled, "Kyrgyzstan Through the Eyes of Foreigners." The exhibit of photographs were all products of foreigners residing in Kyrgyzstan.
- A.17. Jay Cooper and Arlene Lear traveled from Tashkent to Jalal-Abad on the 8th of May to visit the Counterpart NGO Support Center and meet with NGOs from the Oblast.
- A.18. Jay Cooper and Arlene Lear traveled to Osh on the 9th of May to meet with NGOs from the Osh Oblast.

Meetings

- A.19. On April 7th, CJ Rushin-Bell, USAID Representative, Kelly Keiderling, USIS Representative, and Betsy Lippman of the US State Department discussed funding from State Department for NGO support through the UNHCR.
- A.20. In Almaty, on April 11th at USAID: Kai Nissley and Nurzhan Shaikenov discussed current program for training and site visits by Nurzhan to NGOs in the region. Also during this time, workshops facilitated by Interlegal Kazakhstan on legal issues for Kazakstani NGOs were observed.
- A.21. On April 14th, there was a meeting with Riffat Kassis of Dutch Interchurch Aid.
- A.22. On April 14th, there was a meeting with Steve Schmida of the National Democratic

Institute.

- A.23. On April 20-23rd, there was a meeting in the Khodjant region of Tajikistan with the World Bank Poverty Alleviation Project.
- A.24. On April 25th, there was a meeting with Chuck Dean of ICMA. Association training and future support to the associations of apartment owners in Kyrgyzstan was discussed.
- A.25. Jay Cooper and Arlene Lear met with the following on the 12th and 13th of May in Bishkek: Ambassador Eileen Malloy and USAID representative CJ Rushin-Bell; Minister of Labor and Social Protection, Asylgul Abdurehmenova, and UNHCR Director, Helmut Buss and Consultant to Ethnic Tolerance Program, Simon Jenkins.
- A.26. Jay Cooper traveled to Dushanbe, Tajikistan on the 21st of May to take part in discussion with World Bank Representative, Michael Mills and the Tajikistan Social Investment Fund which will be supported through two Counterpart consultants in the extension of the CAR NGO Support Initiative. A meeting was held with Richard Fraenkel, Martial Laurent, Renny Smith and Michael Mills concerning the project.

B. Issues/Problems

- B.1. The major issues to be considered in Kyrgyzstan in the near future are:
- Counterpart will be managing the transition to the extension of our project in Central Asia including the move to a more efficient office.
 - Organizing the payment of taxes and social security payments in cooperation with other USAID contractors.
 - The closing out all grant activities by the date requested.
- B.2. Some observations made during the visit to Jalal-Abad after meeting with NGO leaders from the more rural areas of the Oblast: Community leaders consider NGOs to be small credit distributors. This is a result of the small credit programs that have begun in the rural regions which encourage the development of community based organizations for the management of the funds. Therefore training in NGO and Community is necessary in the rural regions.
- B.3. We had a shock to learn of the mistakes in charts documenting training activities in CAR. This was a serious error that was caught in time before being published in the quarterly report. Any statistics of our program should be checked and double checked before being distributed. The need to keep hard copies of reports and statistics so that database numbers can be verified must be stressed. Another need is more database personnel in CAR for the purpose of brainstorming and double checking the database system for calculations. With the program extension, additional database staff will be hired.
- B.4. All issues, problems and recommendations have been raised recently in staff meetings

and during the staff retreat. These are in connection with the extension of our program in Central Asia. We have an opportunity to learn from our last 2.5 years and use our existing skilled staff to continue our current work. We have developed a participatory approach with our staff in training and in management. We are moving in the direction of developing sustainable local organizations that will continue the efforts of the USAID funded "NGO Support Initiative for Central Asia."

C. Observations/Lessons Learned

- C.1. During the month of April a contractor was hired to monitor some of the current projects being implemented by Counterpart/Kyrgyzstan. This proved to an efficient and useful method for monitoring current projects.
- C.2. The rural office program in Kyrgyzstan has generated rural activity in the regions where we have offices. In Jalal-Abad, there are over 50 NGOs registered in the Counterpart database. Before the NGO Support Center was established there were only a few NGOs in the database. The rural program needs continued attention and support with serious attention in the area of employment. This could take the form of community based groups working with unemployment and micro-credit.

D. Project Changes

No project changes at this time.

E. Coordination and Cooperation

- E.1. Counterpart in Kyrgyzstan continues to work with UNHCR in the satellite office program and also in the program for ethnic tolerance. UNHCR funds two Counterpart NGO Support Centers in Kyrgyzstan, one in Kara-Balta and the other in Jalal-Abad. The Ethnic Tolerance program is designed to bring community participation to play in the understanding of ethnic differences. The program publishes children's stories that are written and illustrated by the members of the community including school children. The program focuses on training teachers to encourage participation by students especially in the area of ethnic tolerance.
- E.2. Discussions were held with the Manager of the UNDP Regional Gender in Development program for Central Asia and the Caucuses, Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh. There seems to be great potential for cooperation with UNDP in this area. Gender in Development is an area of special interest to the NGO community where organizations focusing on women's issues are numerous. In Kyrgyzstan the NGO Support Centers are in a position to provide support to the Gender Development program in areas outside of Bishkek.
- E.3. The Democracy Commission of the US Embassy has been allocated \$100,000 for small grants in FY 97'-98'. The Country Director in Kyrgyzstan will sit on the Commission.

One of the criteria for submitting proposals to the Commission is previous attendance in Counterpart Workshops for Project Design. As a result of the cooperation with USIS and the Democracy Commission, Counterpart Kyrgyzstan will provide regularly scheduled workshops every month so that Democracy Commission requirements can be met by grant applicants.

- E.4. The Swiss Agency, Helvetas, has been supporting our NGO Support Center in Naryn for the last year. Discussions have taken place presenting a plan for another year of funding from Helvetas. The reaction has been positive from Helvetas which will continue the leveraging of USAID funds.

F. Leveraging

- F.1. See E.1. above.
- F.2. See E.4. above.

3. Tajikistan

A. Highlights

Impacts

- A.1. *Istikbol's* book is being reprinted. ORA has purchased 500 for its clients, and Agha Khan Foundation is purchasing 20,000 copies for distribution in Gorno Badakshan. Under our grant, 5,000 copies were sent to schools in Uro Teppe, 4000 to internats through the Ministry of Education, 2000 in Ganch Rayon and 4,000 to Dushanbe Rayon.
- A.2. *Society and Children's Rights* is successfully working in partnership with Save the Children/UK and UNICEF on different programs. They conducted a contest for children in which kids presented their paintings entitled: Tajikistan With Child's Eyes – Path To Peace. A.26. *Society and Children's' Rights* held a peace-building event with the theme "Tajikistan as I See it-The Way To Peace". There were competitions in essay writing, painting, songs, and dances. Prizes were donated by local shops, and space was donated by the Puppet Theater. The children-from local schools and internats-were very enthusiastic and the mood upbeat.
- A.3. *Federation of Heavy Athletics of Khatlon Province*, in partnership with Kurgan-Tjube Sports Committee conducted a Heavy Athletes Town Championship. There were 35 sportsmen who took part in the Championship, from the junior group of the Heavy Athletics Federation 8 kids took part in the championship, two of them are champions, and three are prize winners. They are the first grantee who submitted a video tape along with their financial and narrative reports.

- A.4. *Oli Somon Foundation* has opened regional offices in Ura Tjube, Kulyab, Khorog, and Isfara.
- A.5. The director of the *Youth Ecological Center*, Yuri Skochilov participated in a meeting "NGO and Future" conducted in Budapest. This meeting was to discuss collaboration strategy of Central and Eastern Europe NGOs with leading donors. There were 20 representative from the former Soviet Union, including two from Central Asia (Yuri Skochilov, Yusup Kamalov), and team of donors representing the World Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Marshall Foundation, USAID, and other groups (ISAR, etc.) The meeting was conducted by the Center for Central and Eastern Europe (Hungary), ISAR, and ECOLOGIA (US). Also, *Youth Ecological Center* published a book in which they reveal the State Program of Environmental Education which is approved by the President of Tajikistan. They have trained a number of teachers and student teachers on how to teach environmental protection and continues to host teachers in his information and resource center. Skochilov continues to publish his bulletin which can be downloaded from his e-mail (root@pamir.td.silk.org). Even on weekends, his organization is working.
- A.6. *Odamiyat* and *Salzburg Seminar Alumnae* took turns hosting Rotary meetings this month. This organization will be sponsored by Sister City Boulder's Rotary Club. In the same vein, *Salzburg's* Ela under our grant has created a newsletter "Charity News" which is distributed to NGOs, mass media, business and government. They have a database on business and financial structures doing charitable activities which is available to NGOs, and they ran a conference "Business and the Non-Profit Sector". They also conducted a poll to see who supports charitable activities, why and why not.
- A.7. *Biosphere* has a stable caseload of 220 Chernobyl cleanup workers and has moved from treatment (immune system problems, chromosome breaks, psychosexual dysfunction) to advocacy with the help of a grant from Eurasia.
- A.8. *Odamiyat* has seen a total number of 1,450 patients with an average daily caseload of 20. The Social Club is working, with newspapers, macaroni, biscuits, and tea distributed along with information on pensions, living places, food sources, etc.
- A.9. Local NGO *Refugee Children and Vulnerable Citizens* held a birthday party for Afghan refugee children June 11. Important government officials came, recited poetry and made speeches telling the children how important they were, how much they were loved and welcomed, and how important it was for Tajiks to be friends and be kind to each other (most of the refugees are ethnic Tajiks from across the border). It was a very moving occasion.

Grant activity

- A.10. April was a month of receiving financial and narrative reports from almost all the grantees in Tajikistan. With the exception of the *Oli Somon Fund*, whose installments are

in the form of equipment, and the *Tajik Scouts' Association*, whose leader is out of Tajikistan now; all the grantees received their final installments. Jamshed, the office manager, did a great job preparing the budget control sheets for all the grantees. One of our grantees, "*Salzburg Seminar Alumni and Supporters of American Initiatives in Tajikistan*," held a seminar on Business and the NGO Sector Cooperation. Businessmen, NGO representatives, and a government representative were invited to the meeting. Mercy Corps and the Eurasia Foundation spoke about their programs to support business activities in Tajikistan. NGOs seemed more active than businessmen. A trainer from the *Soprichasnost Foundation* in Russia was invited to facilitate the seminar.

- A.11. For the third and last time, Counterpart/Dushanbe considered proposals for small grants. Four local NGOs; *Biosphere, Union of Afghan War Veterans, Parastor, and MedService* won the competition. It was the CD's idea to give small grants (within \$300) to local NGOs from her own money. Two previous times seven local NGOs have received these small grants. We all believe this program should continue and will try to find funds.

Training activities

- A.12. Training activities for the month of April included: Project Design in Khorog on April 23-24, participation in PRA organized by WB in Gonchi district (Leninobod) on April 22-25, and NGOs and the Community in Kulob. However, the first two trainings didn't happen. The Khorog training was cancelled due to the weather circumstances of the area, and the PRA was cancelled because of sudden changes in their schedule. Introductory Training, which took place in Kulob, was attended by 18 participants from 12 organizations. This is a new area which wasn't covered by training activities earlier. During the last days of April, the training team continued their work on training module development.
- A.13. The training program was hired by International Federation Of Red Crescent (IFRC) to provide three training workshops for them. Topics were: "Leadership," "Volunteers' Management and Work" and "Resource Development." These were three topics which were not conducted by Counterpart/Dushanbe trainers before. We agreed to provide these trainings, because we considered the topics necessary and vital for our customers (local NGOs of Tajikistan) despite the fact of realizing the task a labor consuming process. The training team took two weeks to develop training modules (three trainers' time for this period and use of equipment was paid be IFRC). Every trainer was given a task to develop a training module for the assigned topic. Due to the previous period of the program (SC/US and Counterpart partnership) trainers were in a way taught by SC Training Consultant to participate in development of the training modules. We used this opportunity to be sure how they feel confident at this type of activity and it was well-done. Trainees' evaluations proved this, where they expressed their excitement on the quality of the training and effectiveness of the methods and approaches to make the topics accessible to everybody. This training was attended also by a number of experienced international representatives- heads of missions of IFRC in Poland, Uzbekistan, Kazakstan and Tajikistan. All of them gave only positive marks to the training and its'

particular components. As for the financial part of this training, it was supervised by our headquarters and organized according to the consultations with the Financial Director of Counterpart (Anwar Samad). The finances of the project were submitted to Counterpart/Dushanbe and Almaty.

- A.14. Trainings for May included; May 12- 13, Leadership/ Management; May 14- 15, Volunteers' Management; May 15- 16, Resource Development; and May 27- 28, Introduction to NGO (in Dushanbe).
- A.15. Training planned for June in Khorog was not realizable since staff could not get seats on a plane for the entire month of June.
- A.16. The CD is taking complaints from the trainees that we are not moving forward fast enough. They want new modules. They are assured that they are being worked on. These complaints are appreciated since they show that the clients are ready to move ahead.
- A.17. A trainer in gender awareness is in Tajikistan with Save UK and we hope to get into her program as soon as we can schedule some time. She wants to hire some contract trainers in Ainee and Penjikent (Northern areas) and may use our TOT graduates there.
- A.18. Kiomuddin and trainers continued the process of selecting contractees to come to TOT.
- A.19. The Training Director sent trainers to nearby communities to see if any nascent NGOs were ready to work with us.
- A.20. The Country Representative interviewed as many of last years NET trainees as possible and found their growth and development went far beyond expectations.

Documents/Publications

- A.21. The Project Design Training Manual was finally published in Russian (300 pieces) and English (100 pieces) and received. The reason it was completed so late was due to frequent lack of electricity at the publishers. A draft of the program's brochure was designed.
- A.22. NGO "*Istiqbol*" published their book in color for children. Total number of copies is 30,000.
- A.23. Counterpart/Dushanbe staff designed a new brochure.

Participation in External Events

- A.24. Farhod Bokiev visited a meeting organized by the government's Aid Coordinating Unit at the Investment Department. Local staff members of international NGOs were invited to this meeting. The goal of the meeting was to learn about the international NGOs'

activities in Tajikistan. Officials claimed they did not want to control international organizations; they just wanted to have information about their activities. It was suggested to have this kind of meeting on a regularly basis. At the end of the meeting, the local NGO representatives presented their organization. Finally, the Aid Coordination Unit encouraged the local NGO staff to purchase shares of Sangtuda Electric Power Station which has recently been announced as a priority in national economy by the President.

- A.25. Lola, the NGORC assistant, attended a briefing organized by International Foundation for Election Systems to announce and discuss the results of opinion poll in Tajikistan. Representatives of local NGOs were invited to the meeting. Steve Vagner, who prepared the analysis of this poll, said that 33% of Tajikistan population support the development of NGOs in the future. However, the representatives of local NGOs doubted this figure because the concept of NGOs is new for most rural areas.

Other Programming Activities

- A.26. Other accomplishments made by the training team and NGORC include project proposal reviews and small grant proposal reviews.
- A.27. Counterpart/Tajikistan has been working on the design of the program brochure. We finished the list of the program inventory. Most of the time was spent with the grantees, reviewing their reports and figuring out their current balances. The NGORC assisted the International Foundation for Election Systems in preparing their briefing. We also presented information on local NGOs. The office rent was paid for two more months.

B. Issues/Problems

- B.1. NGOs from new areas of the country, which were not covered by our services before, are asking us to provide trainings and services to them. We feel that as soon as the program is extended action on this important issue should be taken.
- B.2. Intolerance was a major contributing factor to the civil war in Tajikistan. We believe that Counterpart's CBP has an excellent opportunity to contribute to the resolution of this problem. One way to accomplish this task is to organize training workshops in various locations with participation of representatives from different areas.
- B.3. We continue to investigate newly developed NGOs by all means possible. The training team feels it is worthwhile to go to remoter areas to have meetings with CBOs and individuals in order to inform them about the third sector and Counterpart's CBP. This would happen before the Introductory Training and would be in the form of meetings and discussions. Because many of the remoter areas don't have access to media, the only realistic way to impact these areas is to have direct contact with them.
- B.4. After Counterpart/Dushanbe officially knew about the continuation of the program, we

started looking for new office space.

- B.5. Given the new demands of the program extension, Dushanbe training program is investigating candidates for the position of "Contractor Trainers" in all the areas of the country, to interview them and to prepare them as facilitators of participatory trainings- to provide a TOT Training. These tasks need visits to the areas and organize the process. This will be a very important step to match growing training needs of local NGOs. A number of other NGOs, which have trainers are planned to be visited and interviewed in June.
- B.6. There are problems with the database, there are cases when the computer reports fatal errors, wrong commands and data is being lost often.
- B.7. This was the last month of our old grant and we spent lots of time considering our own needs, office procedures, equipment problems, etc. When we were asked, we were ready to respond. Almaty didn't endorse our desire to purchase a generator, but understood our need for more powerful UPS and possibly step-up transformers.
- B.8. We spent a good deal of time considering trainer workload, and ways to handle it: contract trainers and using our partner FSCI whose TACIS grant has not yet come through are two solutions, but we also need to break up the team and organize the work a little differently, using each trainer as more of a leader and supervisor and less of a support person. Our support staff will need to be more supportive.
- B.9. Both Kiomuddin and Farhod need to hone supervisory skills, delegating instead of doing everything themselves. Farhod intends to get Lola, the part-time Resource Center Assistant better training in financial management. She has graduated with high honors and can devote full time to our program. Jamshed wants more computer training and Sherali wants to do more ticket-purchasing and other procurement in addition to his driving duties.
- B.10. The overriding issue is still political stability and support of democracy, human rights, free market, and rule of law by the new government. We are full of hopes and fears.
- B.11. Counterpart/Dushanbe found a technician who could diagnose our telephone problems, but could not fix them. We regained reasonably reliable electricity, though the surges and fluctuations are still there. We battled a vicious new computer virus. We continued to look for new office space. We trained Khojand's Dilorom in office procedures, got her phone and e-mail address, and though she still has no computer, she went to computer training.

C. Lessons Learned

- C.1. Many of the NGOs who receive grants from CC are hoping to get more support to continue their work. While working with NGOs, we should pay more attention to fundraising and NGO sustainability especially through trainings.
- C.2. As on-the-job-training and development, Barno and Sirojiddin were asked to develop training modules independently. Recommendations and preliminary preparation were shared with them. This was the first test of their abilities and they did great.
- C.3. To assist in preparing contract trainers, we could start training them on initial topics and train them on new topics gradually. The existing trainers could supervise the beginners and they could also conduct trainings together. This approach would make the program more efficient and effective.
- C.4. A lot can be done by a group of people who are committed, respect each other, and want to develop social services and the non-profit sector-an unknown territory. We should be proud of each other, ourselves, and (especially) our clients.

D. Project Changes

No project changes at this time.

E. Coordination and Cooperation

- E.1. Since most international agencies were out of the country after the hostage situation, we did not have much contact with them. The UNDP Monday Morning Meetings were temporarily canceled. Most agencies are returning and we expect to be attending coordinating meetings in the near future.
- E.2. The previously mentioned cooperation with the IFRC and preparation for their upcoming training is underway. (see A.13.)
- E.3. Cooperation with CARE International is also underway. CARE has organized a number of farm associations in Tajikistan and is planning training activities for them. Trainings will include farm management operations. As of this date, training topics and specific details are not yet set. The terms and conditions of the project are also being negotiated.
- E.4. Counterpart/Dushanbe was approached by UNDP's consultant on the peace process, and agreed to consider taking an extra trainer with us to all our many destinations. Using our contacts in the NGO and CBO community, this person could explain the peace process and handle rumor control. There is a local NGO which has been trying to do this, and there are funds through the Democracy Program to support this important activity.

F. Leveraging

- F.1. Counterpart/Dushanbe was approached by Eurasia about the Small Grants Program. They would like Counterpart to continue the program and asked for a proposal.
- F.2. See A.13.
- F.3. Women of Science's director went to visit her daughter in France and returned with a fistful of brochures on violence against women and a head full of ideas. They changed their hours of operation to make staff available all day. They are being funded by UNDP to open similar Centers in Khorog, Kurgon Teppe and Khojand (though there is already a good program in Khojand run by one of our trainees). So far in their program they have helped 472 women, 97 through home visits and others through psychological or medical consultation. They continue to keep the issue before the public, and have provided 112 telephone consultations.

4. Uzbekistan

A. Highlights

Impacts

- A.1. The lobbying efforts of **Musavvir**, in cooperation with ATA, were rewarded this month with a significant victory. The government of Uzbekistan granted a five-year tax holiday to handicraft enterprises, and also exempted them from export duties. Musavvir will be allowed to oversee the process of registering artisans for eligibility for these privileges, which is an important responsibility. Counterpart and ATA's good relationship with Musavvir should allow us to ensure this process does not become corrupted and is carried out fairly and objectively.
- A.2. **Rukhsor Rehabilitation Center** received a grant equaling \$10,000 from Mercy Corps International recently, after having demonstrated their abilities through a Counterpart small grant. They have treated over 350 disabled children so far under the project funded by Counterpart.
- A.3. **The Social Research Center of Nukus** is working successfully on implementation of their project of legal consultations for farmers and a newsletter. They have in fact assisted in the preparation of six successful applications for credit and grants which have been funded to the extent of two million sooms or about \$30,000.
- A.4. **Ecopolis** organized a conference on Civilization, Ecology and Man, which attracted about 30 participants from ecological NGOs and departments of educational institutions from Tajikistan, Kazakstan and Uzbekistan. They managed to receive ISAR funding for several participants from distant regions, which enabled them to significantly increase the

scope and prestige of the conference. Many new links were forged among NGOs of the region, for example between Ecopolis and the Dushanbe Ecocenter and Karaganda Ecology Center. During the course of the conference, the representative from Uzbekistan's Committee for Nature Protection announced that they had been scolded by President Karimov for not working more closely with NGOs on ecological issues, and therefore he was eager to establish better contacts between government initiatives and NGOs.

- A.5. **Rukhsor Rehabilitation Center** and several other participants of our recent Strategic Planning seminar forged strong links in the course of their three days in our office, and by the end of the seminar had coalesced into a small initiative group which wants to participate in efforts to unite the NGO community and influence law reform. As a first step they want to promote NGO activity through TV broadcasts, and they have been put in contact with the Center for Women Leaders to coordinate with their NGO-video project and discuss use of their video equipment and contacts.
- A.6. The **KRIDI Club** organized a well-attended "briefing" to advertise their activities and attract support from the local and international community. The idea was initiated by the project director of the KRIDI Information Center funded by UNDP (which project has been the source of the internal difficulties described in earlier reports) as a promotion for only the Information Center. On advice of Counterpart, Grenada Kurochkina and the entire club was involved in this excellently received PR activity, which not only averted the hard feelings which could have arisen from a separate function, but will hopefully pave the way for future intensified interaction and goodwill. KRIDI has also demonstrated their initiative by setting up a donation box at the recent ATA Handicrafts Sale.
- A.7. **Junior Achievement** has made great strides in cementing and exploiting contacts within the educational ministries, managing to have the government translate into Uzbek language, publish and distribute 30,000 textbooks, and 20,000 study guides are now in the process of distribution. Over 1200 students are currently studying the JA program in English, and the future is now very bright for extending this program to a broad cross-section of students, without requiring English skills.
- A.8. One of our grantees, **Pediatricians Association of Bukhara** was rewarded for efforts in the field of children's medicine last month with the selection of Nodira Sharipova, Project Director of the Association, to the Admissions Committee on State Examinations into the Bukhara Medical Institute. And although their grant under Counterpart ends in June, the Association plans to continue its fight against diarrheal diseases; and is currently working with scholars from the Technological Institute of Food Production researching treatment of diarrheal diseases through a special diet of fruits, vegetables and herbs.
- A.9. Grenada Kurochkina of **KRIDI Club** traveled to the US this month (thanks to strong

recommendations and fast work by Cpart DC and Tashkent to take advantage of this opportunity) for two related conferences for women with disabilities, and has returned positively overflowing with ideas and fresh enthusiasm and useful literature. Not only did this 64-year-old dynamo manage to negotiate this huge trip on her own, but she apparently made a fantastic impression on the folks at Mobility International (organizers of the first conference) and the other organizations with which she met in DC. She kept up with an incredibly grueling pace for three weeks, and shows no signs of slowing down as she prepares to attack donors for funds to translate her mountain of literature....She says she now realizes just how much disabled people are capable of doing, with the appropriate tools and support network - from scaling 10-foot walls to holding down full-time jobs and living independently.

- A.10. **Center for Women Leaders** has scored a major victory by airing its first 15-minute documentary program about NGOs on national television (a difficult thing to negotiate, given censorship problems and general reluctance to air anything which could possibly be perceived as controversial). Although for these reasons they had to include appearances by a couple of GONGO representatives, overall the film highlights the grassroots nature of the NGO movement well, and professionally displays the activities and ideas of many of the best Uzbekistan NGO groups. The second program on NGOs should air in the first half of July, and both films will also be distributed via Internews to the network of private TV stations across the country.

Grant Activities

- A.11. This June our trainers, intern and CD met to review the status of the grants which were approved in the last 9 months for shortened periods due to the anticipated closure of our program. The May regional staff meeting decided that these grants should be assessed in each office by the in-country staff, and those deemed to be worth continuing would be funded for the remaining period requested in the proposal, in the extension of the Counterpart project. In the end, the staff were pleased with the execution and impacts of almost all the projects, and decided only to curtail several which seemed to have achieved all their objectives in the period already funded. Two grantees will be required to deliver satisfactory sustainability plans prior to further funding commitment.
- A.12. We are seeing lots of renewed interest in project writing, since the news of our program being extended, and we should have a fairly significant backlog of proposals for the new grant committee.

Training Activities

- A.13. We stepped up the pace of our training program this April to take advantage of the fact that fewer clients are coming in for project consultations, and decided to conduct two seminars on Project Design in order to stimulate more project-writing activity. These two seminars targeted a wide variety of groups who participated very enthusiastically and were obviously eager to find out about future funding possibilities and about other sources of funds. We included participants from Kokand, Bukhara, Navoi (a formerly

closed city where we are just beginning to make inroads and contacts with initiative groups), Nukus, and Pendjikent, Tajikistan. Pendjikent is very remote from Dushanbe but very close to the Uzbek border near Samarkand, and very few contacts had been established there. However, this branch of the International Ecological Association "Women of the Orient," attended the Introductory Seminar on NGO and the Community in mid-April, and returned at the end of April with questionnaires filled out by 10 other NGOs! As a result of their initiative, we are planning a two-day NGO and the Community Seminar in Pendjikent in May to target these newly discovered groups.

- A.14. Other training activities in April included a Fundraising Seminar for four of our grantees and five other long-standing client NGOs, the above-mentioned NGO and the Community Seminar for eight NGOs (including the new Rehabilitation Director of Goodwill, who also participated in the month-end Project Design Seminar), and Strategic Planning Seminar for five NGOs (several no-shows). The last week of April, we organized a special two-day NGO and the Community Seminar in Tashkent for 12 leaders and members of seven regional branches of the Businesswomen's Association, at their request. The participants included two deputy hokkims (mayors) from districts of Tashkent city, who are also heads of their respective BWAs. Though some participants were purely business-oriented and had difficulty relating to NGO concepts, the overall result was positive and should further strengthen our relationship with the BWA. This exercise will enable us to better identify the branches of the BWA with the greatest potential for development, upon which we should focus our efforts in future.
- A.15. We conducted at least one of each seminar on our roster: Project Design, Strategic Planning and Board of Directors, Fundraising, Mass Media, and two seminars on NGO and Environment. Highlights included a new session in the Mass Media seminar which allowed the participants to give an interview in front of a videocamera, and minutes later to view their own performance, and receive professional feedback from an experienced TV journalist as well as from their peers. This pilot was received enthusiastically by all participants, and we plan to invite the Center for Women Leaders to continue to provide these professional services for future media seminars, on a subcontract basis.
- A.16. As mentioned earlier, Pendjikent is a Tajik town very remote from Dushanbe but very close to the Uzbek border near Samarkand, which has been very isolated since the collapse of the USSR and consequent erection of strict border posts. It is part of Khodjent oblast but in reality many hours away from the relative prosperity and activity of Khodjent city. We were extremely pleased to have a large turnout of participants for our first seminar there on NGO and Environment, and impressed with the level of interest and aptitude displayed. The trainers commented that it was very important to provide more Counterpart services in this area, in cooperation with the Dushanbe office.
- A.17. Training was curtailed this June, in light of the fact that we were trying to finalize the accounting for the current project and thus reduce cash expenditures after June 10. Also, Dina Mukhamadieva was in Moscow attending training conferences for over half of the

month, and the other trainers took some time off during the month while business was relatively slow. The trainers, intern and CD spent considerable time discussing and selecting potential training subcontractors for the extension period, as well as analyzing candidates for Global training on NGO Management, and gathering detailed information from the candidates for Counterpart DC. We did hold two training seminars in the first week of June, one on NGO and Environment by subcontractors, and the other on Fundraising by our staff trainers. Enthusiasm and attendance were high in both cases, and there continues to be enormous demand for the Project Design seminar.

- A.18. Lola and Victor planned and conducted a special one-day program on project design for a grantee, the Technology Business Incubator, whose business-oriented clients participated very enthusiastically and found the training easily adaptable to their activities. More than just a favor for a grantee, this was an opportunity for the trainers to once again adapt their standard format seminar to a totally new kind of audience, and thus strengthen their own skills as trainers.

Coalition Building/NGO Legal Reform /Advocacy

- A.19. Jamila Amodeo of ICNL visited Tashkent this quarter and met with the CD, Bakhran Tursunov and Claudio Calderone of the UNDP, Mandel at USAID, and others to determine the appropriate role for ICNL to play in the process of law reform in Uzbekistan (either as a partner of the new Counterpart Consortium or independently). She understood the UNDP to be interested in holding individual meetings with appropriate government officials in order to lobby for passage of the draft or a suitable modification thereof. She was very supportive of the idea of regional seminars, so there may be a way to draw on ICNL resources as well.
- A.20. We have heard rumors that the draft law is being reviewed by the Cabinet of Ministers, and should be presented for first reading in Parliament in the August session. What is not clear at this point is how many changes have been introduced to the law since it left the hands of the UN Working Group, and there seems to be no effective manner of finding out given the closed nature of the Uzbek legislative process. USAID, in consultation with Counterpart, Global and ABA, continues to seek allies in the upper levels of government who can help ensure the passage of an appropriate law.
- A.21. Saidov, the head of the newly established (by the government) National Center for Human Rights, has expressed his interest in supporting the process of NGO law reform along with USAID. Two of his staff attended the May seminar on NGO and Environment, and by all accounts they were favorably impressed and participated very actively. Because of his potentially key role in the softening of government attitudes towards NGOs and law reform, we are also offering to conduct a specialized abbreviated presentation for Saidov himself. The CD has drafted a proposal for Global funds to conduct NGO seminar/meetings for government officials, which will include not only the relevant officials but NGO activists as well as mass media journalists in order to keep the NGO issue in the spotlight. Law reform will be the central point of the meetings, but

there will be discussion of more general issues of NGO development and support as well as NGO-government cooperation. Small group work will be facilitated by Counterpart trainers as in the January meeting in Tashkent. We plan to invite Victor Aronow of ABA to be the key speaker at these events, and alternatively in his absence the CD will fill this role.

Other Programming Activities

A.22. The CD presented a speech on the Role of NGOs in the Environmental Movement in Central Asia at the opening session of the Conference organized by our grantee Ecopolis "Civilization, Ecology, and Man." Reception was positive and contacts were made with several potential new NGO activists as a result.

B. Issues/Problems

B.1. We have had several periods of difficulty with both electricity fluctuations and telephone line connections, and continue to have problems connecting with PERDCA for transmission of e-mails. It seems that our current line just does not communicate properly with the PERDCA line (previously we were both on 41 lines), and there is apparently nothing that can be done. We are going to try installing a connection to the new IREX freenet provider this week, but Futures Group in our building has also been relatively unsuccessful in establishing solid connections with the IREX line. We may need to invest in some additional equipment in order to resolve this situation. In the meantime, we ask for everyone's patience.

B.2. We have also experienced a major problem with our data base, as the student we had working part-time on it did not correctly back up his work since January, nor did he send it on to Bishkek for updating the central database. As luck would have it, the system crashed one day recently, and we lost all of the information entered after January 23, 1997. The student has since been released from his duties, for this and other previous errors, and will be replaced very shortly.

B.3. We continue to have difficulties with wildly fluctuating levels of attendance at seminars - small turnouts of nine people prompt us to invite more to the next seminar, to allow for such "slippage", and then all invitees show up for an overflowing house! Other offices have also experienced some problems with no-shows at seminars, and some ideas have been proposed to try to impress upon our clients the importance of notifying us if they are unable to attend. We hope to discuss this issue further at Issuk Kul and identify procedures to follow which will hopefully alleviate this problem.

C. Lessons Learned

N/A

D. Project Changes

No project changes at this time.

E. Coordination and Cooperation

- E.1. We have continued our liaison with OSCE representatives with respect to human rights organizations. We assisted IFES in developing a list of active and potentially interested NGOs to invite to their briefing on the results of the public opinion survey of Uzbekistan. (Unfortunately, the government panicked when they received their briefing, and demanded more time to review the results before any other briefings could be held for the public, or even for the international community. Therefore, full briefings have yet to be held.) A meeting was held with the Deputy Director of EU-Tacis to get updated on their grant programs and to discuss future cooperation. They were especially interested in our data base possibilities, and in sponsoring an NGO Resource Center if a local group were to initiate such a project. The CD met with Betsy Lippman of US Department of State Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration to discuss the potential role of UNHCR in support of NGO development activities in Uzbekistan. Daniel Bliss, the new Regional Director of Eurasia, has arrived in the region and informally met with the CD.
- E.2. The CD along with Arlene Lear and Jay Cooper met with UNHCR in Tashkent to discuss potential cooperation, particularly in the establishment of satellite Counterpart offices. The CD and Dina Muhamedieva attended a Friends of Uzbekistan meeting organized by PERDCA which assembled more than 20 members of local and international organizations working on health and medical projects. Discussions were held with several other donor organizations with respect to financing of a trip for Grenada Kurochkina's (KRIDI club) to the USA. We were in close contact with Mobility International to coordinate all the logistics for the opportunity which ultimately arose for Grenada to attend the Leadership Institute for Women with Disabilities. The CD has become heavily involved in the final selections for Global training in NGO Management in the US. The process has been helpful in identifying active NGOs which are known to other contractors but as yet have not been in contact with Counterpart. CAFE has approached us for assistance in contacting the local Alcoholics Anonymous group, and also put us in contact with a new NGO client with whom they are working closely.
- E.3. The CD has been consulting with Mercy Corps and other donors regarding the internal dissent which continues to plague the Women's Resource Center. Mercy Corps finally issued them an ultimatum that they settle their differences or divide the organizations into two separate entities with appropriate documentation and division of assets, otherwise MCI would consider repossessing previously granted equipment and furniture. Counterpart took no such overt action, since the project we had funded was long finished, and no tangible assets had been financed. The CD continues to monitor the situation closely, and try to maintain an even hand between the warring parties.

F. Leveraging

F.1. See A.3.

F.2. See A.9.

C. FULFILLMENT OF SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To develop a functioning and sustainable communications and information-sharing network for Central Asian NGOs.

- In the opinion of the COP, two of the most significant accomplishments of the Kazakstan effort occurred during April, and both on the same day. The first ever open hearing for the Kazakstan Parliament was held, initiated by two of our grantees, SATR and Akbota. This hearing allowed interested and knowledgeable individuals to present to the Parliament research information from other western countries and Kazakstan on necessary laws to protect citizens with disabilities. The USAID Mission and the American Embassy had anticipated that this initial open hearing would be on economic issues.
- In May, Counterpart and the COP participated in a Special Olympics Conference on Fundraising and Strategic Planning, invited were Special Olympics representatives from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.
- Appearing on the Internet were two advertisements from our grantees. The first about the *Center for Conflict Management*, and the second *The Information and Research Center for Civic Education*, Almaty, Kazakstan.
- Our accounting NGO, which is providing financial management training on a pro bono basis, has printed their accounting pamphlet to be used by NGOs
- During the month of June, the organizational conference for the *Kazakstani Association for People With Disabilities* took place. It was attended by over 40 organizations from all over Kazakstan. It is interesting to note that the grant given for this conference only included funds for the conference hall and banquet. All other funds were supplied by the individual organizations themselves.
- Charitable Fund EJIAD is efficiently functioning in 5-6 regions of Kyrgyzstan and the groups are willingly to share their experience with those who are pursuing the goal of creating similar structures in their communities. "EJIAD" acts as a support organization helping the groups to collect information, review and issue it in the form of a brochure to be further distributed among interested people. "EJIAD" designed and edited the brochure, but unfortunately it has not produced it yet. The project leader emphasized that

there is a strong need to publish the brochure in Kyrgyz for rural areas of Kyrgyzstan.

- Talent Support Fund supports civil and cultural initiatives in the fields of education, culture and cultural tourism with a particular focus on artisans, children and women. The project “Traditional Crafts Revival in Kyrgyzstan” was designed to bring Kyrgyz artisans together and create a network of craft co-ops throughout the Republic.
- The rural office program in Kyrgyzstan has generated rural activity in the regions where we have offices. In Jalal-Abad, there are over 50 NGOs registered in the Counterpart database. Before the NGO Support Center was established there were only a few NGOs in the database. The rural program needs continued attention and support with serious attention in the area of employment. This could take the form of community based groups working with unemployment and micro-credit.
- The lobbying efforts of **Musavvir**, in cooperation with ATA, were rewarded this month with a significant victory. The government of Uzbekistan granted a five-year tax holiday to handicraft enterprises, and also exempted them from export duties. Musavvir will be allowed to oversee the process of registering artisans for eligibility for these privileges, which is an important responsibility. Counterpart and ATA’s good relationship with Musavvir should allow us to ensure this process does not become corrupted and is carried out fairly and objectively.
- **Ecopolis** organized a conference on Civilization, Ecology and Man, which attracted about 30 participants from ecological NGOs and departments of educational institutions from Tajikistan, Kazakstan and Uzbekistan. They managed to receive ISAR funding for several participants from distant regions, which enabled them to significantly increase the scope and prestige of the conference. Many new links were forged among NGOs of the region, for example between Ecopolis and the Dushanbe Ecocenter and Karaganda Ecology Center. During the course of the conference, the representative from Uzbekistan’s Committee for Nature Protection announced that they had been scolded by President Karimov for not working more closely with NGOs on ecological issues, and therefore he was eager to establish better contacts between government initiatives and NGOs.
- **Rukhsor Rehabilitation Center** and several other participants of our recent Strategic Planning seminar forged strong links in the course of their three days in our office, and by the end of the seminar had coalesced into a small initiative group which wants to participate in efforts to unite the NGO community and influence law reform. As a first step they want to promote NGO activity through TV broadcasts, and they have been put in contact with the Center for Women Leaders to coordinate with their NGO-video project and discuss use of their video equipment and contacts.
- The **KRIDI Club** organized a well-attended “briefing” to advertise their activities and attract support from the local and international community. The idea was initiated by the

project director of the KRIDI Information Center funded by UNDP (which project has been the source of the internal difficulties described in earlier reports) as a promotion for only the Information Center. On advice of Counterpart, Grenada Kurochkina and the entire club was involved in this excellently received PR activity, which not only averted the hard feelings which could have arisen from a separate function, but will hopefully pave the way for future intensified interaction and goodwill. KRIDI has also demonstrated their initiative by setting up a donation box at the recent ATA Handicrafts Sale, and Grenada's ongoing dynamism has finally been rewarded by a scholarship to attend the Leadership Institute for Women with Disabilities in Oregon and DC in June.

- One of our grantees, **Pediatricians Association of Bukhara** was rewarded for efforts in the field of children's medicine last month with the selection of Nodira Sharipova, Project Director of the Association, to the Admissions Committee on State Examinations into the Bukhara Medical Institute. And although their grant under Counterpart ends in June, the Association plans to continue its fight against diarrheal diseases; and is currently working with scholars from the Technological Institute of Food Production researching treatment of diarrheal diseases through a special diet of fruits, vegetables and herbs.
2. **To catalyze the development of creative partnerships between and among indigenous and foreign NGOs.**
- The CESO Volunteers spent a worthwhile month with the Special Olympics of Kazakstan.
 - The COP is cooperating with the USAID Mission Director, establishing CEO to CEO linkages with selected national US organizations and Kazakstani associations of NGOs. The Mission would invite, at their expense, CEOs to the CAR.
 - The WLCI Partnership was re-instated during the month of April after a new contract was received from the U.S. naming a new western partner.
 - The COP participated in the organizational meeting of the Kazakstan Association of People with Disabilities this May.
 - The COP developed a mini-consortium, consisting of C2HMhill, ISAR, USAID, Ken McNamara, Marshall Fischer and Counterpart, to jointly develop a Water Users Association in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan. The Mission Director has asked that such an association be in place before the end of the year.
 - The UNDP meeting for its NGO Resource Center in Kazakstan took place. Counterpart is on the Executive Committee.

- The COP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNDP. This MOU will be an annex to the project paper to be signed by the government of Kazakhstan, which will support the development of the Third Sector through the newly established UNDP NGO Resource Center.
 - The COP has also cooperated with the new UNDP Gender Section, to promote micro enterprise development for women. In this same line, the COP offered suggestions to the Kazakhstan Business Women's Association.
 - Counterpart in Kyrgyzstan continues to work with UNHCR in the satellite office program and also in the program for ethnic tolerance. UNHCR funds two Counterpart NGO Support Centers in Kyrgyzstan, one in Kara-Balta and the other in Jalal-Abad. The Ethnic Tolerance program is designed to bring community participation to play in the understanding of ethnic differences. The program publishes children's stories that are written and illustrated by the members of the community including school children. The program focuses on training teachers to encourage participation by students especially in the area of ethnic tolerance.
 - Discussions were held with the Manager of the UNDP Regional Gender in Development program for Central Asia and the Caucuses, Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh. There seems to be great potential for cooperation with UNDP in this area. Gender in Development is an area of special interest to the NGO community where organizations focusing on women's issues are numerous. In Kyrgyzstan the NGO Support Centers are in a position to provide support to the Gender Development program in areas outside of Bishkek.
 - Society and Children's Rights is successfully working in partnership with Save the Children/UK and UNICEF on different programs.
 - Odamyat and Salzburg Seminar Alumnae took turns hosting Rotary meetings this month. This organization will be sponsored by Sister City Boulder's Rotary Club. In the same vein, Salzburg's Ela under our grant has created a newsletter "Charity News" which is distributed to NGOs, mass media, business and government. They have a database on business and financial structures doing charitable activities which is available to NGOs, and they ran a conference "Business and the Non-Profit Sector". They also conducted a poll to see who supports charitable activities, why and why not.
3. **To design and implement a demand-driven training and technical assistance program for NGOs in support of institutional and programmatic viability, using existing in-country training resources wherever possible.**
- For a list of trainings see Attachment 8
 - In addition to our normal trainings in April, the Almaty Office conducted a special Media Training in Ust Kamenegorsk, for the Green Party NGO. This training was completely

funded by the NGO, and shows once again the credibility of CC's trainers and programming. In coordination with the UNDP, a Women's Political Leadership Workshop in Semipalatinsk was conducted by Mansiya, again all costs being picked up by the UNDP. Interlegal conducted a trial two-day training on legal issues for NGOs that was monitored by Jay Cooper, the Training Director, and other CC trainers. The initial evaluations by CC staff and the participants were quite favorable.

- At the suggestion of the COP in April, Marat Aitmagambetov facilitated a two hour workshop for 35 FSN employees of USAID/Almaty. The purpose was to do a needs assessment on social services that are not currently being delivered. Hopefully, after more of these assessments are done, USAID can target specific programs for their contractors. Marat also conducted a 1/2 day session requested by ABA, to support the forming Chimkent Bar Association.
- There was a meeting with Interlegal to discuss the evaluation and recommended changes to the NGO Legal Module in April.
- Counterpart Consortium held its first Central Asia retreat for staff from June 27 - 29. Counterpart staff from Central Asia had the opportunity to meet each other and learn of the recently extended support program for Central Asian NGOs. The two-day retreat was organized so that staff with the same or similar responsibilities in each country met in small groups to discuss their work and make suggestions to Counterpart.
- A Central Asia Counterpart contingent attended a seminar in Moscow which was designed to explore the possibilities of creating a network of NGO trainers in the NIS. Each country of CA was represented at the seminar and activity is taking place to develop an NGO training association.
- Mary Flad, an American living in Kyrgyzstan, has been working on the development of a standardized training manual for Counterpart Training workshops. The framework of the training manual is now in place and follow up will take place with the help of an intern to be hired. Drafts have been written of the sections (Introduction, Conceptual Statement, How to Use this Manual) which will precede the workshop outline. A new section on Preparation for the Training Workshop, Registration etc. has been written. The development of the training manuals for the program in Central Asia will add to the sustainability of the program, ensuring materials for training new trainers in the future.
- The Democracy Commission of the US Embassy has been allocated \$100,000 for small grants in FY 97'-98'. The Country Director in Kyrgyzstan will sit on the Commission. One of the criteria for submitting proposals to the Commission is previous attendance in Counterpart Workshops for Project Design. As a result of the cooperation with USIS and the Democracy Commission, Counterpart Kyrgyzstan will provide regularly scheduled workshops every month so that Democracy Commission requirements can be met by grant applicants.

- The Tajikistan trainers were hired by International Federation Of Red Crescent (IFRC) to provide three training workshops for them. Topics were: "Leadership," "Volunteers' Management and Work" and "Resource Development."
- We stepped up the pace of th Uzbekistan training program this April to take advantage of the fact that fewer clients are coming in for project consultations, and decided to conduct two seminars on Project Design in order to stimulate more project-writing activity. These two seminars targeted a wide variety of groups who participated very enthusiastically and were obviously eager to find out about future funding possibilities and about other sources of funds. We included participants from Kokand, Bukhara, Navoi (a formerly closed city where we are just beginning to make inroads and contacts with initiative groups), Nukus, and Pendjikent, Tajikistan. Pendjikent is very remote from Dushanbe but very close to the Uzbek border near Samarkand, and very few contacts had been established there. However, this branch of the International Ecological Association "Women of the Orient," attended the Introductory Seminar on NGO and the Community in mid-April, and returned at the end of April with questionnaires filled out by 10 other NGOs! As a result of their initiative, we are planning a two-day NGO and the Community Seminar in Pendjikent in May to target these newly discovered groups.
- We continued our increased pace of training this quarter, conducting at least one of each seminar on our roster: Project Design, Strategic Planning and Board of Directors, Fundraising, Mass Media, and two seminars on NGO and Environment. Highlights included a new session in the Mass Media seminar which allowed the participants to give an interview in front of a videocamera, and minutes later to view their own performance, and receive professional feedback from an experienced TV journalist as well as from their peers. This pilot was received enthusiastically by all participants, and we plan to invite the Center for Women Leaders to continue to provide these professional services for future media seminars, on a subcontract basis.
- As mentioned earlier, Pendjikent is a Tajik town very remote from Dushanbe but very close to the Uzbek border near Samarkand, which has been very isolated since the collapse of the USSR and consequent erection of strict border posts. It is part of Khodjent oblast but in reality many hours away from the relative prosperity and activity of Khodjent city. We were extremely pleased to have a large turnout of participants for our first seminar there on NGO and Environment, and impressed with the level of interest and aptitude displayed. The trainers commented that it was very important to provide more Counterpart services in this area, in cooperation with the Dushanbe office.
- Lola and Victor of the Uzbekistan office planned and conducted a special one-day program on project design for a grantee, the Technology Business Incubator, whose business-oriented clients participated very enthusiastically and found the training easily adaptable to their activities. More than just a favor for a grantee, this was an opportunity for the trainers to once again adapt their standard format seminar to a totally new kind of

audience, and thus strengthen their own skills as trainers.

4. **To assist Central Asian NGOs in accessing technical and financial resources in-country and abroad.**

- Almaty Business Women's Organization, our grantee, opened their Women's Training Center, which will address the needs of unemployed women in the area, and expand their programming to other oblasts in the country. They were able, because of support and training from Counterpart to secure major funding from Eurasia and Chevron. The opening ceremonies were attended by Ambassador Jones, Mission Director Buckles, the COP, and other significant local government personalities.
- The Association of Youth Support, as a result of Counterpart training was able to receive a grant from Mobile Oil, in the amount of \$43,000 to purchase computers for the youth training component.
- The Akim of Panfilov Rayon formally thanked Counterpart for the support by *The Women of the Orient*, who provided humanitarian aid in the amount of \$4000.
- **Junior Achievement** has made great strides in cementing and exploiting contacts within the educational ministries, managing to have the government translate into Uzbek language, publish and distribute 30,000 textbooks, and 20,000 study guides are now in the process of distribution. Over 1200 students are currently studying the JA program in English, and the future is now very bright for extending this program to a broad cross-section of students, without requiring English skills.
- The Country Director visited the Counterpart Kara-Balta office on April 6th, which is supported by the UNHCR. The visit included traveling to two refugee communities outside of Kara-Balta with Helmut Buss, Director of the UNHCR-Kyrgyz Republic and Betsy Lippman of the US State Department who is responsible for funding to UNHCR in the NIS. Some funds are earmarked for NGO support exclusively.
- The Training Director, Jay Cooper, traveled to Tashkent on May 7th for a subsequent meeting with the Director of UNHCR for Uzbekistan. The meeting included Arlene Lear, Counterpart's Vice President for Programs and Melanie Reimer, Director of Counterpart in Uzbekistan. The topic of discussion was the potential cooperation with UNHCR in Uzbekistan using the Counterpart/UNHCR model from Kyrgyzstan.
- The Swiss Agency, Helvetas, has been supporting our NGO Support Center in Naryn for the last year. Discussions have taken place presenting a plan for another year of funding from Helvetas. The reaction has been positive from Helvetas which will continue the leveraging of USAID funds.

- The director of the *Youth Ecological Center*, Yuri Skochilov participated in a meeting “NGO and Future” conducted in Budapest. This meeting was to discuss collaboration strategy of Central and Eastern Europe NGOs with leading donors. There were 20 representative from the former Soviet Union, including two from Central Asia (Yuri Skochilov, Yusup Kamalov), and team of donors representing the World Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Marshall Foundation, USAID, and other groups (ISAR, etc.) The meeting was conducted by the Center for Central and Eastern Europe (Hungary), ISAR, and ECOLOGIA (US). Also, *Youth Ecological Center* published a book in which they reveal the State Program of Environmental Education which is approved by the President of Tajikistan.
 - Women of Science’s director went to visit her daughter in France and returned with a fistful of brochures on violence against women and a head full of ideas. They changed their hours of operation to make staff available all day. They are being funded by UNDP to open similar Centers in Khorg, Kurgon Teppe and Khojand (though there is already a good program in Khojand run by one of our trainees). So far in their program they have helped 472 women, 97 through home visits and others through psychological or medical consultation. They continue to keep the issue before the public, and have provided 112 telephone consultations
 - **Rukhsor Rehabilitation Center** received a grant equaling \$10,000 from Mercy Corps International recently, after having demonstrated their abilities through a Counterpart small grant. They have treated over 350 disabled children so far under the project funded by Counterpart.
 - Grenada Kurochkina of **KRIDI Club** traveled to the US this month (thanks to strong recommendations and fast work by Cpart DC and Tashkent to take advantage of this opportunity) for two related conferences for women with disabilities, and has returned positively overflowing with ideas and fresh enthusiasm and useful literature. Not only did this 64-year-old dynamo manage to negotiate this huge trip on her own, but she apparently made a fantastic impression on the folks at Mobility International (organizers of the first conference) and the other organizations with which she met in DC. She kept up with an incredibly grueling pace for three weeks, and shows no signs of slowing down as she prepares to attack donors for funds to translate her mountain of literature....She says she now realizes just how much disabled people are capable of doing, with the appropriate tools and support network - from scaling 10-foot walls to holding down full-time jobs and living independently.
5. **To provide broad-based support for U.S./Central Asian Partnership Programs.**
- Counterpart continues to provide technical and logistical support to the programs of our consortium partners.

D. ACTIVITY STATUS FOR THIS QUARTER

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Status</u>
Confer and negotiate with external consultants	ON-GOING
Network with US NGOs in-country	ON-GOING
Network with USAID contractors in-country	ON-GOING
Network with foreign NGOs in-country	ON-GOING
Network with private sector in-country	ON-GOING
Monthly meetings with consortium partners	ON-GOING
Monthly USAID Round-table meetings	ON-GOING
Identify and negotiate with local NGO partners	ON-GOING
NGO Training	ON-GOING
Initiate information exchange/newsletter	ON-GOING
Monthly Financial Reports	ON-GOING
Evaluation of training	ON-GOING

E. PROJECTED ACTIVITY STATUS FOR NEXT QUARTER

All of the above activities will be on-going during the next quarter.

III. TARGETED SECTOR SUPPORT: AID TO ARTISANS

A. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the ATA project is :

To create financially sustainable NGOs in Central Asia through craft-based microenterprise development.

B. ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS AND PROJECT IMPACTS

Objective 1: Promote democratically governed, financially sustainable, market-driven, service-oriented craft NGOs.

Uzbekistan

- On June 13, Richard Lawrence, President of *Mediterranean Imports*, a Connecticut-based importer returned from a three week buying trip to Uzbekistan. Mr. Lawrence met with craft NGO leaders and made arrangements to fulfill product orders from the New York gift fair, the Boston gift fair, and the High Point, North Carolina home furnishings market. He also purchased samples of new products including vests, pillows, painted wooden tables and tin garden furniture.
- The Spring Craft Fair in the Tashkent sale combined with Counterpart grants have enabled ATA to expand regular assistance to the following groups: Kokand Artisans Association of the Fergana Valley which had a much larger product representation at this sale, Rishtan Ceramics Factory in Almaty which has now through the sales secured a marketing agent (Design Gallery NGO), and the Women's League of Creative Initiative of Tajikistan.

Kazakstan

- ATA's Regional Representative identified a potential new NGO partner in Almaty, Kazakstan. The group, which is called *Ume*, received its first export order (for 100 pillows) during the ATA organized buyer visit of Mediterranean Imports in May and June. In the past, *Ume* has received assistance from the USAID-backed Central Asian/American Enterprise Fund.

Objective 2: Build local NGO sustainability and capacity in product design, development, and marketing of crafts.

Kazakstan

- Three representatives of ATA partner NGOs were selected to participate in the NIS Global Training for Development (GTD) Program sponsored by the Academy for Educational Development. The participants are: Jyldyz Asanakunova, President of ATA partner NGO *Golden Thimble* from Balkanbaeva, Kyrgyzstan; Rimma Nurtaeva, the President of ATA partner NGO *Shiber Aul* from Almaty, Kazakstan; and Aizhan Bekkulova, the Vice-President of ATA partner NGO *Women's League of Creative Initiative*, in Almaty Kazakstan. The three NGO representatives traveled to the United States at the beginning of July 1997 for a four week period. Together with Counterpart International, ATA developed a training program tailored to the participants interests and their organizations needs. The program includes activities in Washington, D.C., North Carolina, Connecticut, and New York City. A detailed itinerary of the training program is attached.
- During April, ATA Regional Director held workshops at *Shiber Aul* artisans village, reviewing new product lines developed by *Shiber Aul* teachers for production by Orphans House #2 students. Four new lines have been created: wooden trays and boxes, embroidered felt vests, sewn and embroidered draperies, and traditional clothing. Initial workshops have been held with students and marketing conducted. Initial proceeds are about \$350. ATA's Regional Director also presented new and existing products to members of the International Women's Club in Almaty with *Shiber Aul* and announced the upcoming opening of new store space. ATA also provided *Shiber Aul* with design patterns and catalogs showcasing home accessories products (curtains, slipcovers); the group plans to create home accessory products for the upcoming Spring Craft sales in Tashkent and Almaty.

Objective 3: Generate supplemental income for NGO members belonging to vulnerable groups such as women, unemployed and pensioners.

- During the second quarter of 1997, ATA partner NGOs realized approximately \$50,000 in sales, bringing the total sales to date to \$165,000. The Spring Craft Fairs in Almaty and Tashkent generated revenues of \$28,000 and \$15,000 respectively. Several export orders from the North Carolina-based company *From the Mountain* and orders placed by *Mediterranean Imports* during a buying trip in May accounted for the remaining \$7,000.

Objective 4: Facilitate networking among crafts-producing NGOs throughout Central Asia through regional crafts fairs and training workshops.

Uzbekistan

- **TASHKENT SALE:** In the last weekend of May, ATA and partner NGOs in Uzbekistan hosted the regional craft fair in Tashkent. The sale attracted approximately 350 buyers; 13 regional craft NGOs and 15 small, private producers exhibited. This event is still organized almost solely by ATA due to the intense political climate among Tashkent NGOs and lack of trust among artisans and rural NGOs with Tashkent organizations. Also, because the Tashkent market for crafts is smaller than Almaty and because many groups are still in the

process of developing salable product lines (using information gained at these sales), no booth fees were charged. Total sales generated were approximately \$15,000 -- less than those generated by the November Christmas sale in Tashkent (\$20,000) but more than last summer's sale (\$10,000).

- The sale was held in much larger facilities than previous sales (at the Hotel Le Meridian) and had a theme of "crafts for the home and garden" which was well received and helped broaden perceptions of crafts beyond the souvenir category. New products included: wooden garden furniture, tin torchieres, shelves, and birdhouses, iron candle holders, carved wooden garden bed, silk carpets from Namangand and Samarkand, a yurt from Golden Thimble in Kyrgyzstan (it sold -- they also sold two in Almaty). All of these products sold well.
- While total sales generated at the Tashkent fair were substantial, many participants are still not able to sell enough to do more than cover their costs of coming to the event. The Spring sale is still extremely valuable as a means of networking with other artisans and NGOs and interacting with buyers, yet the lack of significant sales growth (compared to the Almaty show) indicates that the Tashkent market may not be large enough to support heavy reliance on biannual sales as a marketing strategy. It will be essential for NGOs to place products in Tashkent stores if profits are to grow. Buyers in Tashkent have more selection of crafts available on a day to day basis than those in Almaty and so there is less excitement surrounding craft sales (except at Christmas time). Through the sale some artisans have been able to secure placement of products in such stores as BWA/Zumrat and Mussavir's shop, however, artisans report sales are on a consignment basis and it remains difficult to get prompt payment for products from Tashkent stores even when a product sells. Working with artisan groups to demand contractual terms for products in stores will be a crucial next step.

Kazakstan

- *ALMATY SALE:* The Almaty sale was organized almost entirely by *Women's League of Creative Initiative* (WLCI) and *Shiber Aul* (SA) artisans village and run as a revenue-generating event for these NGOs. The sale was held at the Kazak Drama Theater. It was open to any artisan wishing to participate and generated approximately \$2,500 in booth fees for WLCI and SA. Artisans came from three republics as well as rural areas of Kazakstan and reported total product sales at \$28,000. The opening day of the sale was a trade-only day to which craft store owners/managers were invited (it is essential that NGOs help artisans place products into stores and generate year-round markets rather than relying on two sales a year). Twelve stores came on the first day, including the buyers for the three major hotel craft stores, and several returned during the weekend. The event was well-covered by television and newspaper media. The strong sales figures reflected the maturity of product lines. Artisans from Osh, Kyrgyzstan, for example, nearly sold out of their products for the first time ever. Many items which sold poorly were eliminated from lines.
- In late May, the Kazak President's office requested USAID and Counterpart to arrange a meeting with Aid to Artisans' Regional Director to discuss strategies for reviving and

marketing Kazak carpets. ATA's Regional Director held a meeting with USAID representatives and the Kazak President's advisor on culture in early June. Although carpets will be a difficult product category to revive, ATA and the President's Office will explore avenues of collaboration.

Kyrgyzstan

- Kyrgyz artisan successfully participated in the Almaty and Tashkent craft fairs during May. Osh Feltworks, one of ATA's client NGOs in Kyrgyzstan, was among the most successful in Almaty, almost selling-out its products.

C. LESSONS LEARNED

How Building Strong Craft NGOs Promotes Democratic Institutions

- Before ATA's work in Central Asia started, current partner NGOs either did not exist or were member organizations with a roster of artisans but no services to offer. The vast majority of artisans believed that the market for crafts could not grow because of limited demand and prohibitively high taxes. Artisan members expected little from these organizations except an occasional exhibition - where members were not permitted to sell their crafts.
- ATA addressed these problems by offering business training to service NGOs emphasizing the concepts of market-driven product development, pricing and marketing. ATA also helped partner NGOs to develop programs that respond to actual member needs, leverage funding for these programs and ensure that members had a voice in NGO management and programming. ATA's market development work in conjunction with this process was absolutely crucial; had there been no sales results, the entire process would have been meaningless because it would not have improved the artisans' material existence nor provided a reason for the NGO to exist.
- As by-products of their initial successes, artisans are demanding more from their NGOs, questioning NGO leadership when decisions are made that they do not agree with, and even lobbying local and national governments regarding everything from legislation to securing sales space. Artisans in other regions are beginning to emulate what they see happening in Bukhara and Samarkand, forming their own NGOs and artisan centers. Through ATA sponsored sales and Counterpart training programs, NGO leaders from across Central Asia regularly consult each other with regard to programming and marketing. Drawing from the example of NGOs at the Bukhara Artisan Center, small hotel owners, tour guides, and other tourism-related businesses have also started to organize themselves to challenge government policies that restrict licensing or impose penalties on private enterprises that compete with the state-run Intourist Agency. These examples are but a few of the ways ATA's component of

the NGO Support Initiative is helping to build democratic citizens movements in countries where people and associations once relied solely on the state for support and direction.

D. PROJECT CHANGES

- ATA Regional Director Karla Hostetler will be leaving her position in Central Asia in August. She will be in the US for two months and then return to Central Asia to train ATA's new Regional Director in September. After her departure, Ms. Hostetler will remain an ATA consultant.
- Mr. John Smart, a Peace Corps volunteer with over 20 years of experience in business management and organizational development in the US and several years of Central Asia regional experience, will serve as interim Regional Director during August. Mr. Smart has been working with Ms. Hostetler and the ATA local coordinators for the past year. Meanwhile ATA is currently conducting the final round of interviews for its new Regional Director.
- In August, Ms. Beth Gottschling will join ATA as Central Asia Project Coordinator. Ms. Gottschling joins ATA after working for World Learning/PIET for the past two years. She will also bring Russian language skills, having lived and taught English in Kaliningrad, Russian for a year and a half. ATA's current Project Coordinator, Mr. Glenn McGrory, will leave ATA in August to attend law school but will remain a committed member of the ATA family.

E. COORDINATION, COOPERATION, LEVERAGING

- ATA leveraged approximately \$50,000 in funding from the Rausing Trust, a UK-based private charitable trust, to promote the European marketing of Kyrgyz products, especially sirdak rugs. The grant will enable Kyrgyz artisans to exhibit their products at the home furnishings & gift fair in Frankfurt, Germany - the largest trade show in the world for these product categories.
- For two weeks in July and two weeks in August, five leaders from ATA partner NGOs will come to the United States for NGO training and craft enterprise development training. Both programs are funded through the Academy for Educational Development's Global Training for Development Program (GTD).

F. PROJECTED ACTIVITY STATUS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER 1997 (July-Sept.)

Objective 1: Promote democratically governed, financially sustainable, market-driven, service-oriented craft NGOs.

Results Indicators:

- Four recently formed NGOs registered (USAID IR 2.1.1.2).
- Ten NGOs in five Central Asian Republics will increase membership by 50% over two years (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)

Kazakstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan

July-August

1. Together with Counterpart, identify ATA office space in Almaty, Tashkent, and Bishkek.
2. Procure office equipment for virtual artisan centers in Almaty, Tashkent, and Bishkek.

September

1. New ATA Regional Director arrives in-country.
2. Identify and assist appropriate partner NGOs in planning & writing Consortium Grant Proposals.
3. Hold initial meetings and NGO training sessions with identified NGOs to expand project goals and objectives.
4. Assist partner NGOs to develop and revise work plans.

Tajikistan

July-August

1. Identify and assess potential new NGO partners.
2. Identify, hire part-time in-country coordinator.

Objective 2: Build local NGO sustainability and capacity in product design, development, and marketing of crafts.

Results Indicators:

- 1,000 NGO members trained in product development, marketing and business management (USAID IR 1.3.2)
- 100% increase in number of member artisans with access to design and marketing assistance over two years. (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)
- 90% increase in number of members paying dues to ATA partner NGOs over current 15%.
- NGO retail outlets retain 15% of profits.
- 5% of member exhibition sales got to the NGO.
- Exporting NGOs retain 15% of export revenues.
- 75% increase in revenues to targeted craft NGOs through membership exhibition fees for NGO-sponsored local and regional crafts exhibitions.

Regional (Four Republics)

July

1. ATA/Counterpart train leaders of three craft NGOs in the United States under the GTD Program.
2. ATA Regional Director, Ms. Karla Hostetler, prepares extensive craft business training materials for partner NGOs.

September

1. Conduct marketing workshops and seminars.
2. Conduct business training and NGO development workshops and seminars.

Uzbekistan

August

1. Interim Regional Director organizes business training workshops in Bukhara & Samarkand.
2. Interim Regional Director assists ATA partner NGOs in Shakrisabz and Gidgduvon to package and export products to fulfill February 1997 Gift Show orders.
3. ATA/Counterpart train leaders of two Uzbek NGOs in the United States under the NET Program.

Kyrgyz Republic

September

1. ATA European Marketing Manager, Ms. Karen Gibbs, travels to the Kyrgyz Republic to assess potential of existing craft products for European market and train Talent Support Fund Export Manager.

Objective 3 Generate supplemental income for NGO members belonging to vulnerable groups such as women, unemployed and pensioners.

Results Indicators:

- Increase new local, regional, and international export sales for partner NGOs and their members by \$350,000 in two years as follows. (USAID IR 3.2.1)
Year 1: \$150,000
Year 2: \$200,000

Year 3 & Beyond: After the project ends, ATA projects an additional 50% increase in sales in the third year (\$300,000) and the fourth year (\$450,000).

Regional

July, August

1. Assist appropriate and interested partner NGOs to open or display products in retail facilities.

Kyrgyz Republic

July, August

1. *Talent Support Fund (TSF)* member, Jyldyz Asanakunova, visits *From the Mountain* in Chapel Hill, North Carolina to discuss recent orders and product specifications.
2. TSF producers in Balkanbaeva and Bishkek produce pillows, rugs to meet \$2,000 *From the Mountain* order.
3. Exhibit Uzbek, Kyrgyz products at the New York International Gift Fair (August 10-14).

Objective 4 Facilitate networking among crafts-producing NGOs throughout Central Asia through regional crafts fairs and training workshops.

Results Indicators:

- Linkages made among at least 14 NGOs at Regional Craft Fairs in Almaty and Tashkent. Craft NGOs from all five Republics establish a regional consortium. This flexible, but formal tie will improve individual businesses, promote savings through cost-sharing for marketing, procurement, and consolidated shipping when appropriate. (USAID IR 3.2.1.1)
- A Regional Crafts Association will be formalized by the EOP.

Regional

July, August, September

1. Networking through participation in ATA seminars/workshops.
2. Sample shipments consolidated between countries.

IV. THE CITIZENS NETWORK FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

A. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs (CNFA) project is:

To assist in the creation of democratic and pluralistic participation, promote the economic viability of rural communities and raise the quality of life for people of rural Central Asia.

B. NARRATIVE

1. Highlights

The following is a summary of key impacts achieved to strengthen private farmers' associations (PFAs) in the region (Note: KFB = Kentucky Farm Bureau; IFB = Indiana Farm Bureau; OFB = Oregon Farm Bureau):

Kyrgyzstan

- **OREGON FB EXPERT ASSISTS PFAS PREPARE NEW BUDGETS AND STRENGTHEN ACCOUNTING PRACTICES**

Barry Bushue spent three weeks assisting 6 rayon PFAs develop their annual budgets and improve association fund accounting practices and the process of collecting member dues. Bushue visited five private farms, met 120 farmers, 65 Board members and 14 officers, and conducted workshops in each of the 6 rayons and with the oblast Board.

- **TALAS RAYON PFA PUBLISHES MEMBERSHIP LIST AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT IN ASSOCIATION NEWSPAPER**

As a result of their participation in workshops conducted by Barry Bushue, the Talas president published, for the first time, detailed information about PFA finances and a full list of members in the next issue of their newspaper. This sets a new precedent for transparency concerning finances among all oblast PFAs.

- **REPRESENTATIVES OF SIX KYRGYZ OBLAST PFAs PARTICIPATE IN LEGISLATIVE REVIEWS AND FORMULATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PARLIAMENTARIANS**

For the first time, PFA representatives from 6 oblasts (two PFA leaders from each oblast) discussed PFA issues with parliamentarians in a review of draft legislation in land code

and cooperative law. The cooperative law review was the 4th and final session following three previous reviews with oblast PFA representatives.

Kazakstan

None this quarter.

Uzbekistan

None this quarter.

2. New Staff Hire

No new staff hired.

3. Issues/Problems

- Based on USAID's decision to fund CNFA only in Kyrgyzstan for an 18 month extension period, the Field Director informed the Turgai PFA that it could not continue discussions concerning a proposed mini-grant. In addition, he also informed the presidents of both the Fergana and Taldykorgan PFAs of the decision reached by USAID.
- Per a presidential decree issued in March, the Uzbek government merged PFAs with "smallholders" associations to form one national structure. The Fergana PFA president is now Vice-Akim of agriculture in a Fergana oblast rayon. These events were confirmed by the resident TACIS project leader. It is not clear what impact this change will have upon those rayon PFAs who adopted new bylaws and freely elected farmers as chairs as an outcome of the recent assignment of Kentucky FB experts.
- The Taldykorgan PFA President's attitudes toward his Farm Bureau partnership have changed as his PFA increased its contacts with international donor agencies. The Field Director discussed his concerns with the VOCA program director who is closely monitoring the situation. Both parties agreed there needs to be a unified position taken by USAID implementors toward future cooperation with the PFA.
- In concert with ACDI's plans to develop a credit association with \$700,000 in capital, the Field Director developed a scope of work with the Osh Union for the last OFB expert to develop a more transparent and open accounting system. To successfully manage ACDI's planned investment, the PFA needs to improve its financial management practices.
- Workshops conducted by OFB expert Barry Bushue with Osh Union staff confirmed the importance of not just teaching accounting practices but also to share basic financial

information with PFA members and provide useful services to members in exchange for their dues. The assignment demonstrated the correlation between a good PFA accountant and good financial records. Future workshops for PFA rayon accountants, perhaps led by the oblast accountant, will further develop their skills.

- Due to irregularities cited by the Eurasia Foundation in its grant to the Zhezkusgan PFA, CNFA canceled planned funding for the PFA's cooperative seminar.
- ACIDI, the Peace Corps volunteer and the Osh Union PFA need to more closely coordinate their production of the PFA newsletter; they are now producing two separate publications instead of just one for members.
- Whenever possible in the future, workshops conducted for Osh Union PFAs should be conducted in the Kyrgyz language which ensures maximum engagement of participants in the proceedings.
- Future Osh Union PFA activities should include participation by their lawyer to increase his exposure to available resources for the PFA. For example, the PFA and the lawyer were unaware of the ABA's law library and legal database at its Bishkek offices. It would be useful for the PFA lawyer to meet with the Kyrgyz Bar Association and other lawyers working with PFAs.
- The 6 Osh rayon PFAs need to submit notarized letters to the Union to allow the Union president to register all 6 rayons and the oblast Union. The rayon PFAs and the oblast Union are ready to register, but final approval by the Ministry of Justice can occur only in the presence of an NGO leader and not a representative of a foreign organization.
- While FB policy states elected officers do not collect salaries, Osh Union oblast and rayon officers see salaries as justified. Perhaps too strongly, our project has promoted the inclusion in oblast and rayon PFA bylaws of articles against salaries and supporting reimbursement of travel expenses. The result has elected PFA officers submitting travel expenses which curiously add up to the monthly amounts they asked for as salary.

4. Lessons Learned

- As a result of initial contact with our program during a "commercial law" workshop, farmers in several Jalal-Abad oblast rayons are interested in forming PFAs and they expressed interest in meeting again to discuss the formation of a PFA. This is further evidence of the importance of conducting training events at the rayon level.
- Counterpart's satellite office in Jalal-Abad can become a valuable resource for contacting farmers in the area and distributing information. After the "commercial law" workshop in the area, CNFA staff left two reference manuals of current Kyrgyz laws affecting farmers with the office.

- Future activities with Kyrgyz PFAs should be centered on those rayon PFAs which demonstrate the greatest interest and response to CNFA program activities. For example, during the Oregon Farm Bureau expert's recent assignment, three of 6 Osh Union rayon PFAs demonstrated high interest in his workshops and enthusiasm in implementing his ideas. CNFA staff immediately scheduled "commercial law" workshops in two of the three rayons and recommend continued program activities in these same rayons in the extension period.
- More training and facilitation is required before Kyrgyz PFAs are able to assume full responsibility for management of donors' credit programs. Currently, they can assist with recommendations, site visits and credit checks, but they cannot independently manage such programs.
- Legal registration of Kyrgyz NGOs is a very dynamic and challenging process. Despite working closely with the Osh Union oblast and rayon PFAs since January on this process, these PFAs are not yet registered. With Kyrgyzstan only 6 years old and two draft NGO laws under development, it would appear that some additional time is required to establish a viable NGO sector.

5. Cooperation With Other Organizations

- **IRIS:** CNFA cooperated with IRIS to conduct commercial law workshops with PFAs: 24 Talas PFA members attended the first in a series organized by IRIS and CNFA. Similar workshops were held in Bazar-korgan (attended by 17 PFA members), Kerevan (attended by 37 farmers), Nookat (attended by 25 PFA members), and Uzghen (attended by 32 PFA members). IRIS lawyers served as instructors and content experts. IRIS also researched laws affecting farmers, assembled handout materials for participants and PFA representatives and developed hypothetical examples. CNFA facilitated meetings with the PFAs, organization of the workshop and translation of materials into Kyrgyz. Led by CNFA's Program Officer, farmers identified taxes, contracts and registration of farmers as the "most critical" issues they faced.
- **USDA Cochran Program:** Two Osh Union PFA candidates nominated by CNFA's Field Director - Fatima Teshebaeva, oblast Women's Chair and Rahmanberdi Mamatiskov, oblast Vice President - were selected to participate in a forthcoming US-based training program. In cooperation with partner Farm Bureaus, CNFA will again seek to extend the stay of any PFA leaders who receive awards this year.
- **ACDI:** Field Director met ACDI project manager to review plans for creation of a farmers credit association in affiliation with the Osh PFA.
- **Counterpart-Tashkent:** CNFA staff discussed participation of Fergana PFA representatives in an "NGO Concepts" training program in Fergana in May.

- **Mercy Corps, VOCA, TACIS:** Field Director maintained ongoing consultation and dialogue with country representatives on issues relating to their assistance to CNFA's targeted PFAs.
- **IRIS and ABA:** Field Director and staff discussed planned business law training seminar scheduled for all Kyrgyz oblast PFAs.
- **Helvetas:** Field Director consulted with project staff hiring former PFA officers to work on their new agriculture extension project.

C. FULFILLMENT OF OBJECTIVES

(1) To support the development of new private farmers associations (PFAs) as democratic, rural-based NGOs in Central Asia, through partnerships with U.S. state Farm Bureaus.

Outputs: [See B (1) for additional outputs]

Kyrgyz PFAs:

Osh Union of PFAs

- The Field Director worked closely throughout the quarter with PFA leaders to assist them in the process of registration for 6 rayon PFAs and the Oblast Union. Because the Union president had notarized letters from Kademjai and Nookat rayons, he was only able to register those two rayons as well as the oblast Union as of June 30.
- For the first time, PFA representatives from 6 oblasts (two PFA leaders from each oblast) discussed PFA issues with parliamentarians to review draft legislation in areas of land code and cooperative law. The law review was the 4th and final session following three previous oblast-level reviews conducted with PFA representatives. The deputy who sponsored the land code draft legislation heard of the scheduled session and scheduled his review for the day prior to ensure participation of PFA representatives. PFA representatives also met with USAID's IRIS commercial law project to identify the top priorities of farmers, potential workshop sites and future training dates.
- OFB expert Barry Bushue spent three weeks on assignment with the PFA assisting 6 rayon PFAs develop their annual budgets and improve accounting practices for their funds and collection of member dues. His assignment was coordinated with GTZ, ACDI and Mercy Corps; all four PVOs wanted to present a unified position to the PFA leadership regarding the importance of credible budgeting processes and fiscal transparency to their continued support of the PFA.

- Counterpart-Bishkek’s training subcontractors conducted a two-day “NGO Concepts” workshop in Osh for leaders of both rayon and oblast PFAs.

Support for Additional PFAs

- See description of commercial law workshops in B (5).

Uzbek PFAs:

- Mr. Davron Djumanov and Mr. Tulqinjon Tursunov participated in a 3-week reverse exchange training program hosted by both Indiana and Kentucky Farm Bureaus. They were joined by leaders from the Taldykorgan PFA with the CNFA Program Assistant serving as interpreter for the delegation. The purpose of the program was to introduce FB operations and democratic practices and share information about the scope of FB outreach and diversity of membership development activities.

Kazak PFAs:

- Ms. Biken Bazarbekova, President of the Kokuiski rayon PFA and Mr. Kudaybergen Kantarbaev, Vice-President of the “Agro” oblast PFA participated in a 3-week reverse exchange training program hosted by both Indiana and Kentucky Farm Bureaus. They were joined by leaders from the Fergana PFA with the CNFA Program Assistant, Bibira Akmoldoeva serving as interpreter for the delegation. The purpose of the program was to introduce FB operations and democratic practices and share information and ideas about the scope of FB outreach and diversity of membership development activities.

2) *To support development of other rural NGOs, including trade associations and commodity groups, by creating partnerships with American counterpart NGOs.*

Outputs: [See B (5) for outputs]

3) *To stimulate and accelerate US corporate support to Central Asian NGOs by supporting the successful development and implementation of joint ventures between US agribusinesses and their Central Asian counterparts.*

Outputs: None to date.

(4) *To develop institutional capability and management skills in running rural NGOs.*

Outputs: [See additional outputs under B (1) (5)]

- See C (1) and attached Impact Statement for OFB expert Barry Bushue.

5) *To provide Central Asian women farmers, managers, entrepreneurs and leaders the skills,*

training and information necessary for them to develop long-term business and personal linkages with US counterparts.

Outputs:

- Ms. Biken Bazarbekova, President of the Koksuiski rayon PFA (cited by CNFA field staff as one of the best rayon PFA Presidents in the Taldykorgan oblast) participated in the May reverse exchange training visit to the IFB and KFB. She is the first woman PFA leader to participate in a CNFA-sponsored reverse exchange program.

D. ACTIVITY STATUS FOR QUARTER

1. Conduct seminar on cooperatives with Zhekusgan PFA (Cancelled)
2. Conduct seminar to review draft Kyrgyz agriculture law with oblast PFAs (Completed).
3. Two Taldykorgan and two Fergana PFA leaders participate in three week training program jointly hosted by the IFB and KFB (Completed).
4. One OFB expert on assignment to Osh Union PFA (Completed).
5. One KFB expert on assignment to Fergana PFA (Cancelled).

E. ACTIVITY STATUS FOR NEXT QUARTER
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1. Hire Field Director.
2. Two Farm Bureau experts work with Field Director and Program Officers to develop training program for rayon PFAs.
3. Farm Bureau experts and CNFA staff travel to Naryn and Talas, visit PFAs, initiate training.
4. American and Kyrgyz field staff spend total of 40 days advising and training rayon PFAs.
5. CNFA sponsors advocacy forum stimulating dialogue on agricultural policy between PFA members and parliamentarians.

V. GOODWILL INDUSTRIES INTERNATIONAL

A. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Goodwill Industries International (GII) project is:

To transfer the Goodwill model of NGO and microenterprise development, vocational rehabilitation, and employment generation to Central Asia in order to improve the standard of living and quality of life for people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups within the population.

B. NARRATIVE

1. HIGHLIGHTS

June heralded the final month of Goodwill CAR activity under the auspices of the Counterpart Consortium grant. The highlight of the month was the two-week wrap-up and evaluation visit by GII Special Projects Manager Melissa Jordan. This report will focus on observations of the Tashkent Goodwill from Ms. Jordan's perspective. A full report on Ms. Jordan's travel will be included in GII's pending end of project report.

2. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

- June was the last month of on-site grant management by GII CAR representative Melissa Brill. Over the past few months, Ms. Brill has been working hard to prepare the Tashkent Goodwill management team for their independence at the end of June. In order to facilitate this transition, Ms. Brill has been progressively pulling back from the decision-making processes of the local organization. While this is a necessary step, it has met with a less than satisfactory result. When Ms. Jordan arrived in Tashkent on June 16, it was clear that the Tashkent Goodwill management needed to be prodded to be pro-active about the organization's fate. During her two weeks in Uzbekistan, Ms. Jordan took Tashkent Goodwill leadership to task on several occasions, telling them that their lack of planning and apathy toward communication with their US Goodwill partner jeopardizes their possibilities for a successful future.
- A board meeting was held on June 20 at the Goodwill store, in honor of Ms. Jordan's visit. Several members of the board were outrageously late for the gathering, but the meeting itself was productive. Two new members were elected to the board - a young woman artist (and regular Goodwill customer) who volunteers to arrange and change the window dressing at the first Goodwill store location once a week, and another young woman (and also a regular Goodwill customer) who works for a local advertising agency in Tashkent. This woman convinced her agency to provide free advertising space for the Goodwill in a central Metro

station in Tashkent. These two young women bring fresh perspective, creativity, and enthusiasm to the board, which will benefit the organization tremendously in the long run.

3. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- During Ms. Jordan's time in Tashkent, several site visits and meetings were arranged so that Ms. Jordan could speak with Goodwill employees at both retail locations and meet with various ministry representatives. Currently, the first Goodwill store, located on a main Tashkent street (ironically directly across from the Hotel Intercontinental - a tremendous counterpoint to the typical neighbors of Goodwill retail outlets) is doing a fairly decent business. Ms. Jordan spoke with regular customers about their likes and dislikes in the Goodwill store, and tried to get the store management to listen. There seems to be a disconnection between the management and the clientele; suggestions were made to improve this communication, but it is yet to be seen if that advice was taken.
- During her first week in Tashkent, Ms. Jordan, along with Tashkent Board Chairman (and GII consultant) Bahadir Rasulov, Job Training Director Vyacheslav Linetskiy, and GII CAR representative Melissa Brill, visited with the Deputy Minister of Social Protection, to investigate possibilities for joint activities. Mr. Rasulov suggested that the local Goodwill purchase pieces for the construction of hearing aids, which, then, the Ministry of Social Protection would buy from the Goodwill. However, the Deputy Minister pointed out that, currently, the ministry is able to buy completed hearing aids from a German firm for under \$30 a piece, which would be difficult for a Goodwill operation to beat on price. The Deputy Minister offered to be supportive of Goodwill's mission, but there were no definite plans set. Mr. Rasulov saw this as more of a "meet and greet" session which could pave the way for future co-venturing. Ms. Jordan was disturbed that this meeting had not taken place much earlier, but her Uzbek counterparts did not seem upset at all.
- During her last week in Tashkent, Ms. Jordan, along with Mr. Rasulov, Ms. Brill, and Mr. Arenburg, met with representatives from the Ministry of Finance to discuss currency convertibility issues. Once again, Ms. Jordan was upset that this meeting had not taken place six or twelve months earlier. Mr. Rasulov did not see this as a priority, and Ms. Jordan took him to task for his great lack of forward thinking. Ms. Jordan reminded Mr. Rasulov and Mr. Arenburg that, without convertibility, they would have no way to purchase store stock from Goodwills in North America, and that, once the grant was completed, there would be very limited funding available to provide them with any additional donated shipments.
- The representatives of the Ministry of Finance Department of Hard Currency Transactions were very friendly and claimed that it would not be difficult for Tashkent Goodwill to get permission for convertibility, IF they met all the ministry's and the Central Bank's criteria, and IF they were prepared to wait for a year or two while the paperwork cleared. When Ms. Jordan asked why the process took so long, the ministry agent simply said that this was NOT a long time to wait. When it was pointed out that the convertibility policies of Uzbekistan may have changed completely by the time permission would be granted, there was no

response from the government representatives. At last, Ms. Jordan tried to impart that the Tashkent Goodwill would die very soon without being able to pay their trading partners in hard currency, but there was only a smile and a shrug in response.

- In general, the government people with whom Ms. Jordan met were courteous, but unhelpful. In the current Uzbek political and economic scheme, it is difficult to say whether or not the Tashkent Goodwill will be able to survive. The next few months will offer a clear picture of whether it will be able to continue without direct grant support.

4. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

- In late May, two representatives from the Tashkent Goodwill, Mr. Arenburg and Mr. Linetskiy, traveled to Kharkiv, Ukraine to visit the Goodwill Foundation there. Mr. Arenburg and Mr. Linetskiy became well-acquainted with the staff, programs - and problems - of their colleague NIS agency. Both the Tashkent visitors and the Kharkiv hosts have indicated that they found the visit to be very productive and useful, in both information and experiential exchange and in network building with colleague organizations. The Goodwill in Rybinsk, Russia, the most successful NIS Goodwill venture to date, is eager to host visitors from Tashkent in the future. (They have previously hosted NIS Goodwill visitors from Vladimir, St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Vladivostok.)

5. PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

- Clearly, a major problem within the Tashkent Goodwill organization is a lack of independent forward thinking. Throughout the life of the grant program, the Tashkent leadership has been fairly complacent, allowing GII, Melissa Brill, and the Indianapolis partner take the lead in virtually all activities. They have been provided with numerous cautionary tales and ample warning about remaining apathetic about their future and their programs. Ms. Jordan indicated to them that their future was in their own hands, and that, if they did not pursue active communication with their partner in Indianapolis, they risked losing that tie altogether.
- Another problem is the reluctance on the part of the Goodwill leadership to accept and then use healthy advice provided by visitors and consultants. The main Goodwill retail site is dull and colorless. Numerous visitors have suggested ways of brightening up the facility, to attract more customers. Ms. Jordan attempted to have posters and signage created by a local artist before the grant funds vanished, but no one on the staff had the initiative to call and order the signs - even after Ms. Jordan *ordered* them to do so. In a fit of frustration, Ms. Jordan took a roll of twine and started looping hangers together, so that complete outfits could be displayed in the store. Only after the store staffers saw customers buying the whole outfits that Ms. Jordan pieced and displayed together did they see the marketing value of this design concept.

6. FINAL NOTES

- One problem that GII has discovered with the type of program Goodwill has attempted overseas on USAID funds is that a situation of dependency is created, where the local NIS agency being assisted becomes far too reliant on the US partner and the GII International Programs Office and then has a very difficult time becoming genuinely self-reliant and self-sustaining.
- GII is reviewing the types of grants for which it has been applying and will use the wisdom gained from participation in this and other technical assistance programs in approaching future funding ventures.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

1. **Counterpart Performance Plan**
2. **ATA Performance Plan**
3. **CNFA Performance Plan**
4. **Counterpart Financial Pipeline Analysis**
5. **ATA Financial Pipeline Analysis**
6. **CNFA Financial Pipeline Analysis**
7. **GII Financial Pipeline Analysis**
8. **Training Sessions in Central Asia for June 1997**
9. **ATA Training Program for GTD Program**
10. **CNFA Farm Bureau Expert Assignment/Program/Impact Summary**
11. **Newspaper Articles/Itineraries on Reverse Exchange Delegation to
Indiana and Kentucky Farm Bureaus**
12. **Summary of State Farm Bureau Experts to PFAs**

Attachment 1

Performance Plan for Grant-Making (Counterpart)

INDICATORS	1995								1996								1997	
	First		Second		Third		Fourth		First		Second		Third		Fourth		First	
Planned vs. Actual	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A
Kazakstan																		
Seed Grants (15)			2	1	4	6	6	12	9	21	12	31	14	42	15	51	15	55
Partnership Grants (6)							2	0	3	1	4	3	5	5	6	6	6	6
Corp Challenge (10)				1		4	2	5	4	5	6	9	8	9	10	9	10	10
Kyrgyzstan																		
Seed Grants (13)			1	1	3	7	5	15	7	25	9	36	11	51	13	66	13	72
Partnership Grants (5)							1	0	2	1	3	3	4	4	5	4	5	3
Corp Challenge (5)							1	1	2	1	3	2	4	1	5	1	5	5
Uzbekistan																		
Seed Grants (10)			1	2	2	5	4	13	8	18	10	25	11	30	12	41	12	44
Partnership Grants (4)							1	0	2	1	3	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
Corp Challenge (5)							1	0	2	1	3	1	4	3	5	4	5	4
Tajikistan																		
Seed Grants (7)					1	1	2	2	3	4	5	9	6	14	7	18	7	20
Turkmenistan																		
Seed Grants (5)	0		0		0		1	1	2	1	3	1	4	3	5	3	5	4

Attachment 2

**Aid to Artisans Performance Plan
December 1995 - August 1996**

Purpose: To create financially stable NGOs in Central Asia through crafts-based micro-enterprise development.

Results and Indicators by Month	Dec.		Jan.		Feb.		Mar		April		May		June		July		Aug.	
	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A
1) 9 NGOs (3 per country) trained, experienced & productive in craft micro-enterprise ventures & business management																		
a. Identify & assess needs of a minimum of 3 NGOs per country COMPLETED																		
b. Identify & Hire part-time Local Regional Coordinators COMPLETED																		
c. Identify and assist appropriate partner NGOs in planning & writing Consortium Grant Proposals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
d. Hold initial meetings & NGO training sessions with identified NGOs to expand project goals & objectives	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
e. Develop/Revise work plans outlining objectives of ATA partner NGOs in accordance with Partnership grant proposals.					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
2) 900 individuals trained in product development, marketing & business management																		
a. Conduct Product Development Workshops & Seminars									X	X		X	X					
b. Conduct Marketing Workshops & Seminars					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	

Results and Indicators by Month	Dec.		Jan.		Feb.		April		May		June		July		Aug.			
	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A
c. Conduct Business Training & NGO Development Workshops & Seminars					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
d. Incorporate additional regional artisans and groups into trainings									X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
e. Explore & assist partner NGOs participating in other regional and U.S. based training activities & conferences							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
3) Linkages and networking among a minimum of 9 partner NGOs																		
a. Networking through participation in ATA seminars/workshops							X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			
b. Sample shipments consolidated between countries									X		X	X	X		X			
c. Participation and planning for Holiday Exhibitions or Fairs			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
d. Explore shared resources for NGO network	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
e. Creation of an Artisan based NGO network COMPLETED																		
4) \$40,000-\$50,000 in sales of craft products for a minimum of 9 partner NGOs																		
a. Regional/Local Marketing: Assist appropriate & interested partner NGOs to open, or display products in retail facilities					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
b. U.S. Marketing: Hold ATA Design Meeting for Market response to recent samples									X	X								
c. U.S. Marketing: Exhibit products at the New York Intl. Gift Fair			X	X														

Results and Indicators by Month	Dec.		Jan.		Feb.		April		May		June		July		Aug.			
	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A
d. Contact and arrange for U.S. buyer visits to the CAR	X		X		X		X	X	X		X		X		X			
e. Sample purchase orders placed for local and export marketing/sales.			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
5) Increased cultural identity of Central Asia by foreigners through sales of products adapted for export																		
a. NGO Artisan Resource Guide completed & distributed									X									
b. Samples & information provided to tourist groups, U.S. buyers & importers			X	X	X	X			X	X								
c. Individual partner NGO marketing action plans developed and updated with grant activities.			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		

Aid to Artisans Performance Plan September 1996-June 1997

Purpose: To create financially stable NGOs in Central Asia through crafts-based micro-enterprise development

Results and Indicators by Month	Sept		Oct		Nov.		Dec		Jan		Feb		Mar		April		May		June	
	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A						
1) 9 NGOs (3 per country) trained, experienced & productive in craft micro-enterprise ventures & business management																				
a. Identify & assess needs of a minimum of 3 NGOs per country COMPLETED																				
b. Identify & Hire part-time Local Regional Coordinators COMPLETED																				
c. Identify and assist appropriate partner NGOs in planning & writing Consortium Grant Proposals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
d. Hold initial meetings & NGO training sessions with identified NGOs to expand project goals & objectives	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
e. Develop/Revise work plans outlining objectives of ATA partner NGOs in accordance with Partnership grant proposals.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2) 900 individuals trained in product development, marketing & business management																				
a. Conduct Product Development Workshops & Seminars			X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X								
b. Conduct Marketing Workshops & Seminars	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		
c. Conduct Business Training & NGO Development Workshops & Seminars	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Results and Indicators by Month	Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.		Jan.		Feb.		Mar.		April		May		June	
	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A						
d. Incorporate additional regional artisans and groups into trainings			X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X						X		X
e. Explore & assist partner NGOs participating in other regional and U.S. based training activities & conferences			X	X			X	X	X	X	X			X						
3) Linkages and networking among a minimum of 9 partner NGOs																				
a. Networking through participation in ATA seminars/workshops	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
b. Sample shipments consolidated between countries			X		X	X			X		X								X	X
c. Participation and planning for Holiday Exhibitions or Fairs	X	X	X	X	X	X							X	X	X	X	X	X		
d. Explore shared resources for NGO network	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X						
e. Creation of an Artisan based NGO network COMPLETED																				
4) \$40,000-\$50,000 in sales of craft products for a minimum of 9 partner NGOs																				
a. Regional/Local Marketing: Assist appropriate & interested partner NGOs to open, or display products in retail facilities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X													
b. U.S. Marketing: Hold ATA Design Meeting for Market response to recent samples			X	X									X			X				
c. U.S. Marketing: Exhibit products at the New York Intl. Gift Fair											X	X								
d. Contact and arrange for U.S. buyer visits to the CAR	X	X	X		X		X										X	X	X	X

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Results and Indicators by Month	Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.		Jan.		Feb.		Mar.		April		May		June		
	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A							
Planned (P) vs. Actual (A)	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A							
e. Sample purchase orders placed for local and export marketing/sales.	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X
5) Increased cultural identity of Central Asia by foreigners through sales of products adapted for export																					
a. NGO Artisan Resource Guide completed & distributed																					
b. Samples & information provided to tourist groups, U.S. buyers & importers	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
c. Individual partner NGO marketing action plans developed and updated with grant activities.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Attachment 3

**Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs
Performance Plan: October 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997**

1. Three U.S. state Farm Bureau (FB) partnerships established with counterpart private farmers' Associations (PFAs): one each in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakstan and Uzbekistan.

All results & indicators completed [Oregon FB partnered with Osh Union of PFAs in Kyrgyzstan; Kentucky FB partnered with Fergana PFA in Uzbekistan PFA; and Indiana FB with Taldykorgan PFA in Kazakstan].

2. Three U.S. state Farm Bureau teams sent to Kyrgyzstan, Kazakstan and Uzbekistan to develop long-term protocol agreements with selected PFAs.

All results & indicators completed.

3. 50% increase in membership in selected PFAs in targeted oblasts.

All results & indicators achieved in Osh Union. Result was achieved but not sustained through EOP in Taldykorgan. Result was not achieved in Fergana.

4. 60 members of selected PFAs in targeted oblasts trained in management and leadership skills through Consortium activities and by U.S. state Farm Bureau experts.

All results & indicators completed [A total of 220 PFA members were trained through Consortium and activities and 1,221 were trained by FB experts].

5. Nine leaders from targeted oblast PFAs receive U.S.-based training from state FB partners.

All results & indicators completed [13 PFA leaders received training in the U.S.].

6. 10 rural NGOs in target countries receive Consortium grants.

All results & indicators completed [11 grants awarded].

7. 18 experts, 6 per partnership, sent to work on assignments with targeted PFAs.

A total of 15 Farm Bureau experts were sent on assignments to targeted PFAs: 4 from Oregon FB to Osh, Kyrgyzstan; 5 from Indiana FB to Taldykorgan, Kazakstan and 1 to Issykul, Kyrgyzstan; and 5 from Kentucky FB to Fergana, Uzbekistan.

Attachment 8

Training Sessions in Central Asia

June 1997

KAZAKSTAN "Project Design" Almaty, 2-6 June 1997

#	Organization
1	Gender Information Analytic Center
2	"Consumers' Rights Protection City Society
3	Culture Protection League
4	Diabetics' City Society
6	Children's' Ecological Research Center
7	"Ekos" Club
8	Association of Young Leaders
9	"Koktem" Children's' Club
10	"Womens' Initiative"
11	Youth Center
12	"Legal Development of Kazakstan" Pavlodars' Branch
13	"SOS- Zoo"
14	"Argali" Society
15	Nature Protection Society
16	"Green Space" NGO
17	Civic Initiative Center
18	Young Ecologists League
19	"Demos" Charitable Foundation
20	Ecological Museum

20 participants

"Fund-raising for NGO Development" Almaty, 5-6 June 1997

#	Organization
1	Gender Information Analytic Center
2	"Consumers' Rights Protection City Society
3	Culture Protection League
4	Diabetics' City Society
6	Children's' Ecological Research Center
7	"Ekos" Club
8	Association of Young Leaders
9	"Koktem" Children's' Club
10	"Womens' Initiative"
11	Youth Center
12	"Legal Development of Kazakstan" Pavlodars' Branch
13	"SOS- Zoo"
14	"Argali" Society
15	Nature Protection Society
16	"Green Space" NGO
17	Civic Initiative Center
18	Young Ecologists League
19	"Demos" Charitable Foundation
20	Ecological Museum

20 participants

Bishkek, 9-10 June 1997

- # **Organization**
1. "Vector Asia" Youth Studio
 2. Community Council Of Microraiion #6
 3. "SANITAS" Charitable Fund
 4. Junior Achievement/Kyrgyzstan
 5. "Era" Women's Movement
 6. NGO "Information-Analytic Center", Balykchy
 7. Republican NGO "Nurjan"
 8. Red Crescent National Society
 9. "Chernobyl" Association
 10. "Nur" Children's Health and Mercy Center
 11. Counterpart Consortium, Bishkek
 12. Youth Organization for Career Orientation
- 20 participants**

"Strategic Planning"
Bishkek, 11-12 June 1997

- # **Organization**
1. Association of Schools and Clubs of UNESCO
 2. Youth Organization for Career Orientation
 3. Medical Association of Kyrgyzstan
 4. CNFA
 5. Charitable Fund "EJIAD"
 6. "Tosh- Bulak" Rural Youth Organization
 7. Charitable Public Fund " Kut-Bilim"
 8. Union of Peasants and Farmers of the Talas Oblast
 9. Republic Union "Polygon"
 10. "SANITAS" Charitable Fund
 11. Wome4n's Committee
 12. Development of Humanitarian Space
- 17 participants**

"NGO and Community"
Karavan, 17-18 June 1997

- # **Organization**
1. NGO "Rem"
 2. NGO "Kelechek"
 3. NGO "Tynchtyk"
 4. NGO "Asylgul"
 5. NGO "Aalam"
 6. NGO "Bakyt"
 7. NGO "Naraaly Ajy"
 8. NGO "Ak-Telek"
 9. NGO "Maksat"
 10. NGO "Telek"
 11. NGO "Ulgu"
 12. NGO "Manas"
 13. NGO "Afghan War Participant"
 14. NGO "Ugut"
 15. NGO "Aral"
 16. NGO "Djapar"
 17. NGO "Talent"
 18. NGO "Meerim"
 19. NGO "Adelet"
 20. NGO "Almanbet"

22. NGO "Dykan Ordo Berikmecy"
23. NGO "Aman"
24. NGO "Kara-Tube"
25. NGO "Kel-Doolot"

26 participants

UZBEKISTAN
"Fund-raising for NGO Development"
Tashkent, 4-5 June 1997

Organization

- 1 Salom, Business-Cultural relations
- 2 Handicraft Development Center
- 3 Women's Information Center
- 4 "Bridge" Creative Youth Center
- 5 Uzbekistan Human Rights Society
- 6 "ASALS" Center on Reproductive Health
- 7 Tashkent Public Education Center
- 8 Tashkent Center of Children's Aesthetic Creation
- 9 Women's Leader Center
- 10 Tadjikistan Division of International Ecological Association "Women of the East"
- 11 "KRIDI"

17 participants

Attachment 9

**AID TO ARTISANS
DEVELOPING A CRAFT-BASED NGO
TRAINING PROGRAM**

Trainees:

Jyldyz Asanakunova
Golden Thimble Creative Center
Balkanbaeva, Krygyzstan

Rimma Nurtaeva
Shiber Aul
Almaty, Kazakstan

Aizhan Bekkulova
Women's League of Creative Initiative
Almaty, Kazakstan

DATES:

July 7 - 18, 1997

ATA CONTACT:

Mary Cockram,
Projects Manager
Aid to Artisans
14 Brick Walk Lane
Farmington, CT 06032
Tel: (860) 677-1649
FAX: (860) 676-217
Emergency/Home: Tel. (860) 233-8775

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

ATA will provide a comprehensive craft marketing and NGO development training program for Ms. Jyldyz Asanakunova, Ms. Rimma Nurtaeva, and Ms. Aizhan Bekkulova that will address the following areas:

Product Development and Design

Current Market Trends/Colors

Information and Access to US Market Links

Craft Village Development (Rimma Nurtaeva)

Craft Retailing (Jyldyz Asanakunova and Aizhan Bekkulova)

Craft-based NGO Management

CHAPEL HILL, NC: July 7-8, 1997

Jyldyz Asanakunova

Aid to Artisans Consultant/Contact: Susan Inglis

From the Mountain

Chapel Hill, NC

Tel: 919 967-1762

- Key objective for Ms. Asanakunova to meet and visit Susan Inglis, an importer and wholesaler.
- Observe and learn business practices from Susan and store *From the Mountain*. Discuss ways to improve communication, increase business, work through problems, and discuss packing, shipping, and Customs.
- Gain a knowledge of export management.

Chapel Hill TRANSLATOR:

Samantha Fuller Tsarnaev

Chapel Hill HOTEL:

Best Western University Inn

Raleigh Road/Highway 54E

Chapel Hill, NC

Tel: 919-932-3000

Confirmation # 188ES

Flight Information

July 7: Flight #905, 9:10 a.m. from Washington National arriving 10:18 a.m.
Raleigh/Durham, NC

July 8: Flight #1278, 8:00 a.m. from Raleigh/Durham, NC to Charlotte
Flight #682 from Charlotte to Asheville, NC arriving 10:13 a.m.

Connecticut Translator:
Alla Tilton

Connecticut Hotel:
West Hartford Inn
900 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06119
860 236-3221

Confirmation # R0609
2 Double Rooms

Tues., July 15

- 8:30 Leave West Hartford Inn
- 9:00 Hartford Bus Station, Peter Pan Bus, \$14.95 one-way
- 11:30 Arrive NYC, Port Authority
Sheila Meyer and translator to meet and accompany to hotel
Milford Plaza Hotel
270 W. 45th St. (on 8th Ave.), New York, NY 10036, 212 869-3600
Evening Gala with Sheila and translator at American Women's Economic
Development Group

Fri., July 18

- 6:20 p.m. Experience NYC, Gray Line Tours
Leave for Washington, D.C. by train, Amtrak

Important Phone Numbers:

Aid to Artisans phone 860 677-1649, fax 860 676-2170
Mary Cockram [REDACTED]
Rosemary Cronin [REDACTED], fax 860 659-3455
Alla Tilton (translator) 860 693-2185
Sheila Meyer 212 691-1331

ITINERARY FOR ENTIRE STAY:

Washington, D.C. June 28-July 7
Raleigh, NC July 7-8 (Jyldyz only)
Asheville, NC July 7-10
CT July 10-15
NYC July 15-18
Washington, D.C. July 18

VISITOR PROFILES

Jyldyz Asanakunova

Professional Affiliations/Positions:

President of ATA partner NGO *Golden Thimble*

Country:

Balkanbaeva, Kyrgyzstan

Language:

Russian

Training Objectives and Background Information:

Ms. Asanakunova is president of *Golden Thimble Creative Center*, a Talent Support Fund member and felt producer. This center has grown from 2 to 20 employees in the last 8 months, including 18 women and 4 pensioners (male and female). Each worker now earns \$40 per month for part-time work, a figure twice the average full-time monthly income in that area of Kyrgyzstan. *Golden Thimble* artisans produce the felt rugs and pillows that *From the Mountain* has been importing and selling.

Balkanbaeva is a small village and, aside from school teachers, the workers at *Golden Thimble* are its only wage earners.

The key objective in Ms. Asanakunova's training is for her to meet Susan Inglis, owner of *From the Mountain*, and get training in small business management.

Aizhan Bekkulova

Professional Affiliations/Positions:

Vice President of ATA partner NGO *Women's League of Creative Initiative*.

Country:

Almaty, Kazakstan

Language:

Russian

Training Objectives and Background Information:

As vice president of *Women's League of Creative Initiative*, Ms. Bekkulova has worked closely with the vocational School of Arts in Almaty and the League is the proposed partner for Southern Highland Craft Guild and Garry Barker.

The key objective for Ms. Bekkulova is to visit cultural exchange organizations and more art related institutions such as Asia Society and Southern Highland Craft Guild.

Attachment 10

**THE CITIZENS NETWORK FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
FARM BUREAU EXPERT ASSIGNMENT**

Name of OFB Expert: Mr. Barry Bushue
Partnership: Oregon Farm Bureau and Osh Union of PFAs
Assignment: Budgets and Expense Reporting
Dates of Assignment: May 8 - June 2, 1997

Background: The Oregon Farm Bureau and Osh Private Farmers Associations Alliance is a two year partnership created in September 1995. Supported by the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs and the Counterpart Foundation, the alliance is part of a USAID program to strengthen private associations so that the associations provide assistance to members and also promote the interests of all private farmers. The alliance works closely with the EU TACIS project team in Osh to coordinate assignments, field visits, training workshops and other activities.

The Osh Union of Private Farmers Associations was formally created in December 1995 and consists of 5 private farmer associations (PFAs) from the Karasoo, Uzghen, Kademjai, Aravan and Nookat rayons. The 5 rayon PFAs are composed of approximately 400 private farmers.

Assignment goals: To work with the six existing rayons in the Union on budgeting/expense reports/membership dues. The PFAs need to establish "transparent accounting" and accountability.

Planned Activities:

- Conduct workshops with six rayon private farmers' association on budgeting, membership dues, expense reports and accountability.

Expected Beneficiaries:

- Rayon PFA leadership and membership.

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COUNTERPART/CNFA OFB EXPERT PROGRAM

Barry Bushue -- Itinerary

May 10, Saturday Arrive Bishkek, Turkish Air #626,745
Airport Pickup -- Pavel
Hotel Bishkek

11, Sunday Fly to Osh--????

12, Monday Workshop Design, 1000-1600
Robert Rosengren-ACDI
Klaus Gerhardt-GTZ
Gulmira Torokulova-CNFA
Joldoshakun Chynybaev-PFA President
Rahkman Mamatisakov-PFA VP
Mirza Narmatov-Budget Committee
Gulnara Turdaliéva-PFA Accountant

13, Tuesday Aravan PFA Board Workshop, 1000-1600

14, Wednesday Aravan Budget Committee Workshop, 1000-1600
Chairperson
Members
Rayon Accountant
Rayon PFA President

15, Thursday Kara-Suu PFA Board Workshop, 1000-1600

16, Friday Kara-Suu Budget Committee Workshop, 1000-1600

17 Saturday Nookat PFA Board Workshop, 1000-1600

18, Sunday Rest Day

19, Monday Nookat Budget Committee Workshop, 1000-1600

20, Tuesday Kadamjay PFA Board Workshop, 1000-1600
Overnite at Kadamjay

21, Wednesday Kadamjay Budget Committee Workshop, 1000-1600

22, Thursday Uzgen PFA Board Workshop, 1000-1600

23, Friday Uzgen Budget Committee Workshop, 1000-1600

24, Saturday Kara-Kuldja PFA Board Workshop, 1000-1600

25, Sunday Rest Day

26, Monday Kara-Kuldja Budget Committee Workshop, 1000-1600

27, Tuesday Oblast Board Workshop, 1000-1600

28, Wednesday Oblast Budget Committee Workshop, 1000-1600

29, Thursday Fly to Bishkek
Hotel Bishkek

30, Friday Bishkek Briefing-CNFA, 1000-1600

31, Saturday Departure, Turkish Air #626, 945

Counterpart Consortium NGO Support Initiative for Central Asia
The Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs
Farm Bureau Expert Impact Statement

Expert: Barry Bushue
Partnership: Oregon Farm Bureau/Osh Union of Private Farmers Associations
Assignment: Budgets and Expense Reporting
Proposed Date: May 10 - May 31, 1997

Assignment Objectives:

- Assist six rayons with budgeting/expense reports/membership dues through a series of seminars.

Assignment Summary:

- Mr. Bushue toured the six rayons to give a series of seminars emphasizing the importance of accountability to membership, transparent accounting, following bylaws and the budget making process. The six rayons in question were Aravan, Kara-Suu, Nookat, Kadamjay, Uzgen and Kara-Kulja. The degree of accountability and professional budget making he found in each rayon varied widely. For example, Nookat had very professional books and accurate records of income and expenses, while Kara-Kulja had inaccurate books and little commitment to accountability and budgeting. Generally, Mr. Bushue felt that the seminars achieved some very positive results. He personally believes that the long term success of the PFA structure in the country depends on providing services such as lobbying, legal services, law reform and legal information.

Principal Impacts:

Activity: Conducted a series of one-day workshops on the budget making process with the leadership of the six rayon PFAs, emphasizing the importance of accountability and transparent accounting.

Results: Helped the leadership of the six rayon PFAs prepare budgets for the remainder of the year. Assess the PFAs commitment to the principles he emphasized, and their willingness to participate in the budget making process.

Beneficiaries

- Rayon PFAs of Aravan, Kara-Suu, Nookat, Kadamjay, Uzgen, and Kara-Kulja.

Long-term Impacts:

- Renewed commitment to accountability among the leadership of the rayon PFAs.
- Deeper understanding of the budget among the leadership of the rayon PFAs.

Attachment 11

THE REPUBLIC



Columbus, Indiana

MAY 26, 1997



The Republic photos by Joe Harong

Above, Davron Djumanov, right, bestows upon Hartsville's Hank McGuire a traditional hat from his homeland, Uzbekistan. Djumanov, another farmer from his country, and two from Kazakhstan are touring Indiana over the Memorial Day weekend, looking for ways to improve their techniques. Below, Ken Bense, second from right, shows visiting farmers from the former Soviet Union, grain handling equipment on his farm, northeast of Hope. Pictured from left are Tulqinjon Tursunov, of Uzbekistan, interpreter Bibira Akmoldoeva of Kyrgyzstan and McGuire. To Bense's right is Kudaibergen Kantarbaev of Kazakhstan.

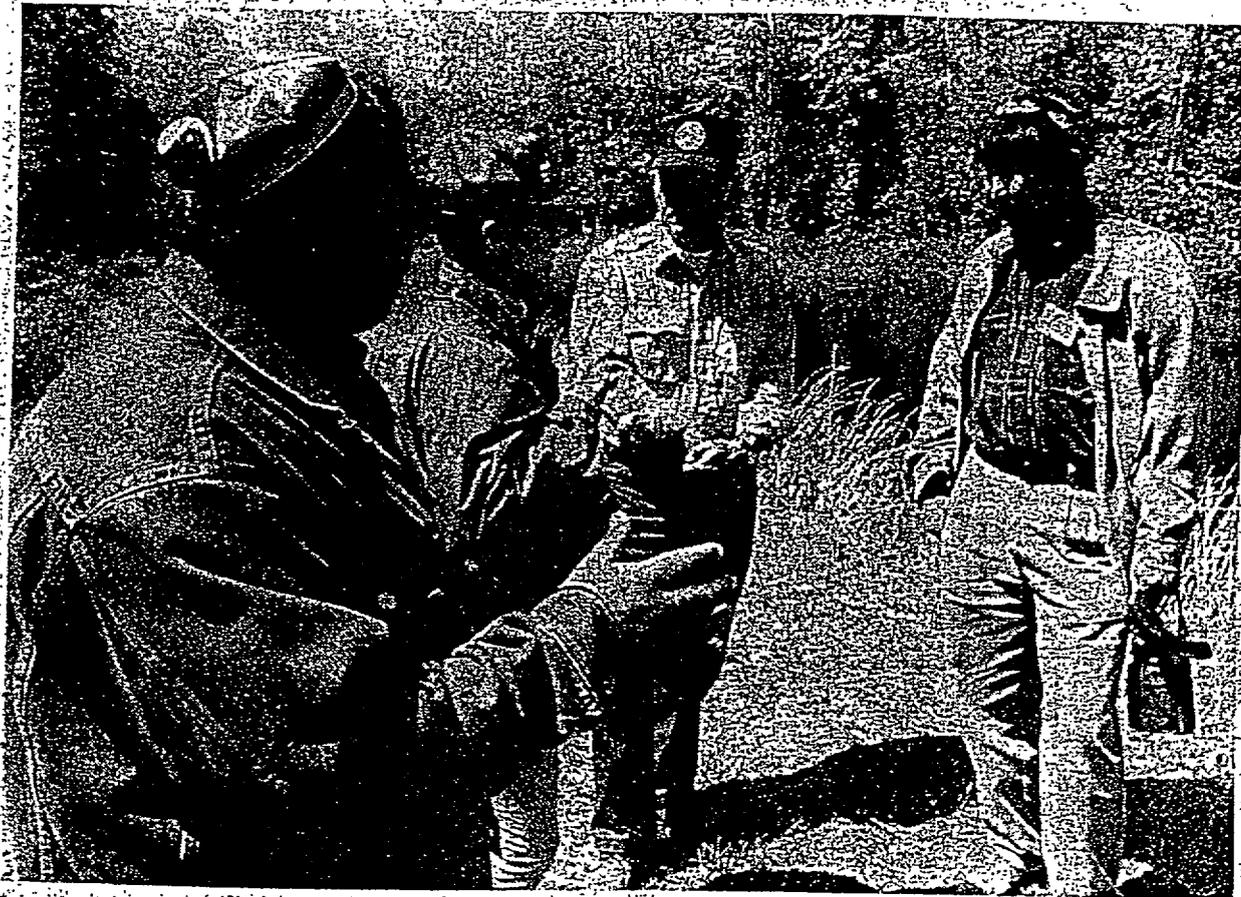


photo by Michael Banks

During a break in their tour Wednesday morning, an interpreter explains to a pair of visiting Russian farmers how local and state agencies worked together to build the Higginson-Henry Wildlife Study Area in Union County. Shown also is Larry Sharp, manager of the Higginson-Henry Wildlife Management Area.

Farmers cultivate interest

Former Soviets see how Bartholomew agriculture works

By Ryan DuVall
The Republic

Four farmers from the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan were in Bartholomew County touring the farm of Ken and Julia Bense on Road 500W.

And although the former Soviet farmers and their American counterparts are decades apart in techniques and technology, they share one common bond — a belief that farmers must stick together.

The visit, sponsored by Indiana Farm Bureau and Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs, allows the farmers to learn how organizations for private farmers deal with policy-making, communications and business concerns such as insurance and organizing cooperatives.

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan formed networks of private farmers' associations similar to Farm Bureau after becoming independent of the former Soviet Union.

During their visit to the Columbus area Saturday, the farmers stayed at the home of Hank and Betty Lu McGuire on Road 1100E. They also visited Francis and Lavonda Elliott's farm in Jackson County and Gary and Patty Redding's farm in Decatur County before visiting the Bense farm.

The McGuires met two of the four visitors during a February trip to Kazakhstan sponsored by Farm Bureau.

"They are just tremendous people and we've enjoyed the heck out of them," Hank said.

The Benses were just as cordial.

"We get several visitors and we enjoy visiting," Ken said. "We've had (visitors) from Germany, Hungary, the Army, Navy, Marines, FBI, the government — everywhere."

The group was accompanied by Bibira Akmoldoeva, a professor from Kyrgyzstan who served as an interpreter.

Speaking through Akmoldoeva, the farmers explained how far behind the times they are.

"You have different technology and we have different technology," said Kudaibergen Kantarbaev, vice-president of the Taldykorgan Farmer's Association. "Our technology is on a lower level, where yours is on a higher level."

"Your Farm Bureau is also much higher than our (associations), which are just starting."

The pieces of technology that impressed the visitors most were the Benses' grain dryers, silos and storage facilities.

"We used to have, in Soviet times, this machinery, but now they are owned by the state," grain farmer Biken Bazarbekova said. "But it was nothing compared to this."

Farmers in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan raise corn, wheat, cotton and vegetables.

The climate is much dryer there than in Indiana and farmers use simple irrigation systems that rely on gravity to bring water to their crops from rivers and large reservoirs.

They mix all feed and silage by hand and can store feed only in pit silos — holes in the ground that are filled with grain and covered.

After discussing grain storage techniques with the them, Ken guessed the visitors are anywhere from 20 to 30 years behind American farmers.

During his visit to the former Soviet Union, the McGuire's saw just how limited farmers there are.

"The land in Kazakhstan is divided among the people," Hank said. "Every county has a governor and every governor wants control."

Government problems notwithstanding, the visitors still have hope.

"When we look at these farms,

we can look ahead to what our farms will someday be," said Davron Djumanov, a grain and livestock farmer.

Before leaving Saturday, the farmers were treated to a large meal at the Bense home where they met retired Columbus Russian teacher John Hudecek and Melanie Unrue of Columbus, who is leaving next week to spend part of her summer in Uzbekistan teaching with Yale University's Campus Crusade for Christ.

The group was scheduled to attend the Indianapolis 500 Sunday before finishing its tour of Indiana University at Purdue University on Thursday.

Wednesday
May 21, 1997
30 Cents

Leader-News

VOLUME 81, NUMBER 31

THREE SECTIONS

KENTUCKY



Farmers from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in Russia take notes as Charlie Gatton, of Gatton Farms in Bremen, describes how they make smoke hams. Four farmers from Russia toured farms in Kentucky as part of an exchange with Kentucky Farm Bureau. Farmers from Russia came to the United States to learn about our methods of farming and farmers from the U.S. visited Russia to view their farming techniques. Leader-News photo by Dana Ehlschide

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

The Times-Argus

PUBLISHED 1906 PAGE B1 CENTRAL CITY, MULLENBERG COUNTY, KENTUCKY WEDNESDAY, MAY 21st 1958



Hamming it up

A GROUP of Russian farmers recently toured Gatton's Farm in Bremen. They are part of an exchange program sponsored by Kentucky Farm Bureau. The Russians, from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, are touring Kentucky to learn farming methods. A similar group of American farmers are touring Russia. In top photo, Charles Gatton Jr., right, discusses country ham curing methods with his Russian guests. In left photo, the Russians are seen in the storage room with hundreds of Gatton's famous country hams.

--Times-Argus photos

EVANSVILLE COURIER,

EVANSVILLE, KY

FRIDAY, MAY 16 1997

Ex-Soviet farmers tour W. Kentucky

By The Associated Press

OWENSBORO, Ky. — Farmers from the former Soviet Union, learning to operate as independent businessmen, are touring family farms across Western Kentucky to learn about American techniques.

"We came here to learn from American farmers because we are just beginning to be independent, private farmers," said Davron Djumanov through an interpreter.

"We are just in the beginning of private farming process. For the first time, we have opportunity and responsibility for our own and we hope to have a good future like you have here."

Djumanov, Tulqinjon Tursunov from Uzbekistan and Biken Bazarbekova and Kudaibergen Kantarbaev from Kazakhstan have been in Kentucky since early May. They're here on an exchange with the Kentucky Farm Bureau and the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Both countries, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, are part of the former Soviet Union and near the Chinese border.

The four farmers toured the Estes family's farm in Owensboro and had lunch there. The Estes presented them with some locally produced soybean oil. The visitors will be touring farms in Western Kentucky until Friday, when they'll head home.

Kentucky Farm Bureau is working with the Private Farmers Association in Uzbekistan and Indiana Farm Bureau is working with the group in Kazakhstan to set up an association similar to Farm Bureau, said Tony Holloway, Kentucky Farm Bureau field supervisor for Daviess and surrounding counties.

Holloway spent a month in Uzbekistan earlier this year.

"We are trying to get them organized and instrumental in developing farm policy," he said.

Most of the farms in the two countries are much smaller than those in the United States and they do not actually own the land but have rights to it for 99 years, said Bibira Akmolodova, the group's interpreter.

Those rights carry from generation to the next and include all the profits from the land and the rights to decide what to grow and even to rent it to another. But ownership is retained by the state.

Crops grown by the four farmers include wheat, corn, cotton, sugar beets, vegetables and fruits, in addition to raising sheep and cattle. Some crops they sell to companies and others they sell at farmers markets, but sometimes they have a difficult time finding markets.

"Last year I produced onions but couldn't sell them so they spoiled," Kantarbaev said.

All four farmers described amazement with the outgoing, friendly attitudes of U.S. farmers; their tidy operations; strong ecological practices and technology.

"They have a good belief in their future," Djumanov said. "They know what they want and what they can do and will do it."

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Union County Advocate

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

KENTUCKY

Seeds of cooperation

planted by Russia, UC

Asian quartet is here to view way farmers operate

by Michael Banks
of The Advocate staff

Walking through a lush green wilderness with massive oak trees swaying overhead, the four visitors must have felt as if they were on the other side of the world.

In fact, they were.

The quartet were farmers from the Asian countries of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, two former republics in what was formerly Russia.

Kudaybergen Kantarbaev and Biken Babekova, both from Kazakhstan, and Davron Kjamanov and Tilquinjon Tursunov, of Uzbekistan, were in Union County on Tuesday and Wednesday touring numerous farms and businesses, and even took a walk through the relatively-new Higginson-Henry Outdoor Classroom.

On their journey through the outdoor classroom, the four Russian farmers watched as local school children studied nature, and even curiously peered over the students' shoulders and talked the children into posing for pictures with them beside wildlife study ponds.

Charlene Jaco, a member of the Union County Conservation Service who helped design and

build the outdoor classroom, said local officials wanted the Kazakhstan farmers to see the study site when students were using it.

"We thought it would be a whole lot better for them to see it with the students using it," Jaco said. "They are just so thrilled to see this. It makes all the work we've done here even more worthwhile."

Tony Holloway, who is an area program director for the Kentucky

Farmer Bureau and served as a host to the Kazakhstan group, said the Higginson-Henry wilderness is in stark contrast to their home, which is nestled in a region bordered by the Caspian and Aral seas to the west and China to the east. Afghanistan is due south, while Siberia lies to the north.

Holloway, who visited Kazakhstan on an earlier

trip, said the country's principal crops are cotton, wheat and orchards specializing in pears, apples, cherries and fresh almonds. Vineyards also are prominent in the area.

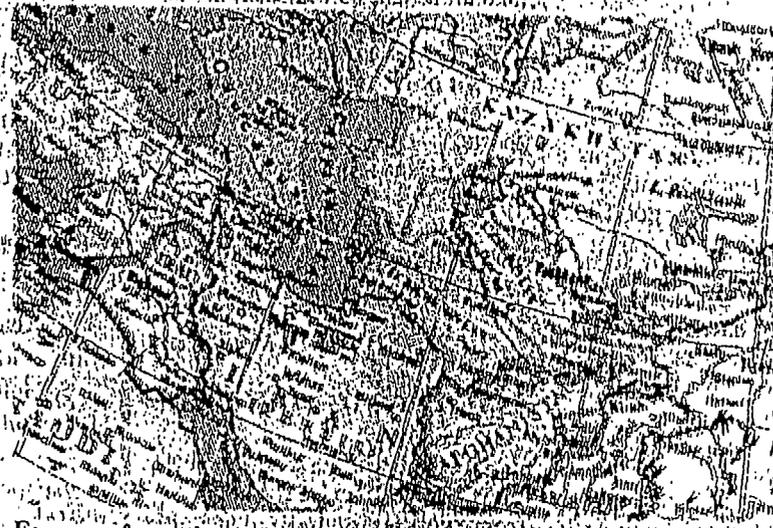
"They grow a lot of fruits and vegetables, and they have the best raisins in the world," he said.

And they prosper at what they do, Holloway said.

"They're very intelligent people. They've all been educated through some sort of college," he said, pointing out that among their orchards, the farmers have planted wheat between the lines of fruit trees.

"They make the best use of the land that they can," he said.

While in Union County, the Kazakhstan farmers spent Tuesday afternoon on the Sturgis-area farm of Billy Bob



Map taken from Almanac

Farmers from the Asian countries of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan were in Union County last week. Both countries are former Russian republics.

See RUSSIA on page A-11

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Russia

Continued from page A-1

Sprague, who also serves as president of the Kentucky Farm Bureau.

Later that day, they visited the local agribusiness Sprague's Farm Supply near Morganfield, as well as Bickett Equipment Co. That night, they were treated to a dinner at the home of Mary Nelle White, who is on the KFB Women's Committee and is a former county Farm Bureau president.

On Wednesday, the foursome enjoyed breakfast at the Woodring Farm before touring the Higginson-Henry Outdoor Classroom.

It was an enjoyable and produc-

tive visit to Union County, Holloway said.

"What we wanted them to do here was to see how Kentucky Farm Bureau operates on a county and state level, and visit county Farm Bureau leaders, which they've done here."

In addition to visiting Union County, the group was slated to visit Webster County, Christian County, McLean County, Muhlenberg County and also met with Congressman Ed Whitfield. He said they would also visit some banks in the area, as the farmers had expressed interest in credit and lending.

The privatization of land is one

major challenge facing the Kazakhstan farmers, Holloway said.

Holloway said Union County native J.K. Henshaw started the initial work with the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs and the Kazakhstan group in February 1996. He said in March, he and another from the Kentucky Farm Bureau followed up on creating farm agencies, or "rayon private farmers associations" on a visit to the country.

"They're just amazed with all of this. It's just so great that they had the opportunity to see it and see how it works. They've heard it, and now they're getting to see all that we've told them," he said.



Union County played host to four farmers from the Asian countries of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, which are both former Russian republics, on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 13-14. Above, the farmers tour the Higginson-Henry Wildlife Study Area.

photo by Michael Banks

UZBEK VISIT ININERARY *(Final)*

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	ACTIVITY	CONTACT
May 6 Tuesday	Louisville	9:25 pm 10:00 pm	Arrive on Delta flight 1941 from Cincinnati at 9:25 pm. Travel to Microtel for evening.	Larry Smith Microtel Hotel
May 7 Wednesday	Louisville Frankfort Lexington	10:00 am 11:00 am 3:00 pm 4:00 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm	Depart hotel for Frankfort. Meet with <u>Commissioner of Agriculture</u> . Tour capitol. Arrive at Jane Elam, <u>KFB Women's Committee member</u> . Tour Kentucky Horse Park. Dinner at Spindletop. Rest. Spend evening with Elam's and Carr's.	Larry Smith J. K. Henshaw Mark Lyle Jane Elam Debbie Carr
May 8 Thursday	Lexington	7:30 am 10:00 am 12:00 am 3:00 pm 6:00 pm 10:00 pm	Meet with jockies and breakfast at Keenland Racetrack. Tour Todd Clark farm setting tobacco and chopping silage. Lunch at McDonalds. Tour <u>University of Ky Ag research farm</u> . Meet with Dr. James Boling in lobby of Spindletop. Dinner with <u>Fayette County Farm Bureau</u> at Spindletop. Evening with Elam's and Carr's.	Mark Lyle Larry Smith Jane Elam Debbie Carr
May 9 Friday	Lexington Paris Winchester Natural Bridge	8:00 am 11:00 am 12:30 am 2:00 pm 6:00 pm	Depart Lexington for Paris. Tour Claiborne Farms. Lunch with <u>Clark County Farm Bureau</u> at Ricards Seed. Tour Rickards Seeds, <u>milk processing plant</u> , feed mill. Dinner and evening at Natural Bridge State Park.	Larry Smith Mark Lyle Lynn Parson Jane Elam
May 10 Saturday	Campton Mize Ezel Campton Lexington	9:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 1:00 pm 3:30 pm 5:00 pm 6:30 pm 11:00 pm	Meet with <u>Wolfe County Farm Bureau</u> . Tour fertilizer plant. Tour Larry Smith's farm Meeting with Phyllis Amyx, <u>KFB Women's Committee member</u> . Tour Cliff View Resort. Dinner at Cliff View. Travel to Natural Bridge. Visit Hoe-Down Island. Return to Lexington. Spend evening at Elam's and Carr's.	Larry Smith Jane Elam Debbie Carr

MAY 23 '97 10:22AM KY FARM BUREAU

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May 11 Sunday	Louisville	11:00 am	Return to Louisville. Off day. Spend night at Microtel in Louisville.	Larry Smith J. K. Henshaw
May 12 Monday	Louisville Elizabethtown	8:00 am 9:00 am 12:00 am 1:00 pm 7:00 pm 10:00 pm	Arrive at <u>Kentucky Farm Bureau's</u> office. KFB Staff meeting. Lunch with staff and guests. Individual meetings with Public Affairs and Information staff. Dinner with <u>Hardin County Farm Bureau</u> . Spend evening at <u>Comfort Inn</u> in Elizabethtown.	Larry Smith J. K. Henshaw Dwight Greenwell Tony Holloway
May 13 Tuesday	Elizabethtown Morgantown Owensboro Sturgis Morganfield	7:30 am 8:30 am 11:00 am 3:30 pm 7:00 pm 10:00 pm	Depart Elizabethtown. Tour <u>farm</u> and feed mill of Sam Moore, KFB 2nd Vice President. Meet with <u>Daviess County Farm Bureau</u> and lunch. Meet Danny Ebelhar, KFB board member. Meet with <u>Union County Farm Bureau</u> . Tour farm of Bill Sprague, KFB President. Dinner with May Nelle White, <u>KFB Women's Committee</u> and former <u>Union County Farm Bureau President</u> . Spend evening at <u>Hometown Inn</u> in Morganfield.	Tony Holloway Joe Rogan
May 14 Wednesday	Morganfield Dixon Hopkinsville	8:00 am 9:00 am 12:00 am 5:00 pm 10:00 pm	Breakfast. Tour <u>Henry-Higginson Environmental Outdoor Classroom</u> . Lunch and meet with <u>Webster County Farm Bureau</u> . Visit home and farm of Tony Holloway. Spend evening with Kenneth Porter.	Tony Holloway Kenneth Porter
May 15 Thursday	Hopkinsville Greenville Calhoun Hopkinsville	8:00 am 9:15 am 12:00 am 4:30 pm 7:00 pm 11:00 pm	Breakfast with Holloway's. Meeting in <u>Congressman Ed Whitfield's</u> district office. Meet with Charlie and Mary Kate Gatton, <u>Muhlenberg County Farm Bureau Board members</u> . Meet with Kelly Thurman, <u>KFB Board member</u> and <u>McLean County Farm Bureau President</u> to see how a county president prepares for a board meeting. Attend <u>McLean County Farm Bureau board meeting</u> . Return to Porter's for evening.	Tony Holloway Kenneth Porter

MAY 08 '87 10:26AM AT FARM BUREAU

May 16 Friday	Cadiz Hopkinsville	8:00 am	Breakfast with local bank presiden(Nfarmer to discuss <u>Ag lending.</u> Meet with <u>Christian County Farm Bureau.</u> Visit Ag Extension Agent.	Tony Holloway
		10:00 am		
		12:00 am	Lunch	
		1:30 pm	Depart for Louisville.	
		5:00 pm	Arrive in Louisville and spend evening.	J. K. Henshaw
May 17 Saturday	Louisville	9:00 am	Depart for Indiana Farm Bureau.	J. K. Henshaw

Guests:

- Kazakstan: Mr. Kudaybergen Kantarbaev President, Agro Oblast PFA
 Ms. Biken Bazarbekova President, Koksuiski Rayon PFA

- Uzbekistan: Mr. Davron Kjumanov President, Kangara Rayon PFA
 Mr. Tulqinjon Tursunov President, Furdal Rayon PFA

- Interpreter: Ms. Bibira Akmoldoeva Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs

KBB HQ
 3 FB women's reps
 1 Congressman
 1 of KY
 State Commission of Ag
 10 County FB

Contact Phone Numbers:

STAFF:

J. K. Henshaw
 502-491-1589 - home
 502-495-5106 - office
 502-523-7630 - car

Larry Smith
 606-725-5562 - home
 606-477-8886 - car

Mark Lyle
 606-263-7169 - home
 606-221-7423 - car

Lynn Parsons
 606-256-5648 - home
 606-875-3500 - car

Dwight Greenwell
 502-477-8722 - home
 502-477-3008

Tony Holloway
 502-235-9600 - home
 502-832-5238 - car

Joe Rogan
 502-678-4088 - home
 502-646-6286 - car

HOSTS:

Jane Elam
 606-255-1396

Debbie Carr
 606-299-8571

Phyllis Amyx
 606-662-6322

Sam Moore
 502-526-5641

Mary Nelle White
 502-333-5174

Kenneth Porter
 502-235-5534

Charlie Gatton
 502-525-6231

Kelly Thurman
 502-278-5170

ORGANIZATIONS:

Kentucky Farm Bureau
 502-495-5000

Citizens Network
 888-872-2632

Fayette County Farm Bureau
 606-253-1626

Clark County Farm Bureau
 606-744-1716

Wolfe County Farm Bureau
 606-668-3485

Hardin County Farm Bureau
 502-737-7377

Daviess County Farm Bureau
 502-683-1715

Union County Farm Bureau
 502-389-1911

Webster County Farm Bureau
 502-639-5033

McLean County Farm Bureau
 502-273-3101

Christian County Farm Bureau
 502-886-5434

HOTELS:

Microtel
 502-266-6590

Natural Bridge State Park
 606-663-2214

Comfort Inn
 502-769-3030

Hometown Inn
 502-389-9848

Sunday, May 18

Attire - Casual - Fun Day

Transportation Steve Howell, IFB Field Representative

10:00 A.M.

Meet Carol and Steve and Debbie
Howell in hotel lobby
Castleton Mall
Marsh Supermarket
Eiteljorg Museum

Evening - Comfort Inn, Indianapolis

Monday, May 19

Attire - Business

7:30 A.M. Meet Carol Hegel in Hotel Lobby for transportation to Home Office
Meet with Officers and Staff of Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc.

8:30 A.M. Officers: Jerry Arburn, Vice President
Carol Hegel, Second Vice President
Mark Sigler, Secretary
Joe Edwards, Treasurer
Overview/Structure of Indiana Farm Bureau Inc.

9:00 A.M. Field Services Division
Field Staff
Training
Young Farmers

10:00 A.M. Break

10.15 A.M. Government Relations
Lobbying
Grassroots involvement
Encouraging and assisting members to run for public office
Networking with other groups
Taxes that farmers pay
(specifically asked about)

11:45 A.M. Break

12:00 Noon Lunch, North Pole Conference Room
Harry Pearson, President
Jerry Arburn
Carol Hegel
Marvin Metzger, expert to Russia
Jim York, expert to Kyrgyzstan

Monday, May 19 (continued)

1:00 P.M.	Information Division Communication within organization with public Internet
2:00 P.M.	Break
2:15 P.M.	Ag Development and Natural Resources Marketing Environmental issues Nutrition Regulations
3:15 P.M.	Finances and Budgeting Joe Edwards, Treasurer Jenny Martin, Controller
4:15 P.M.	Adjourn
Transportation to hotel	Carol Hegel
Evening -	Free Comfort Inn, Indianapolis

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Tuesday, May 20

Attire - Business

7:30 A.M. Meet Carol Hegel in Lobby for transportation to Home Office

8:00 A.M. Breakfast
Farm Bureau Insurance
Meet with Officers and Staff of insurance companies
All day, including Lunch

3:30 P.M. Approximate time for adjournment
Stacy Land, expert to Kazakhstan, will host for evening

Evening Comfort Inn, Indianapolis

Wednesday, May 21

Attire - Business

7:30 A.M. Meet IFB Field Representatives, Bob Schickel and Chris Fenner, in hotel lobby for transportation to Home Office

8:00 A.M. Briefing for Board Meeting in Carol's office

9:00 A.M. Board of Directors Meeting

10:30 A.M. Break, approximate time
(visitors leave Board Meeting at break)

12:00 Noon Lunch in Cafeteria
David Whicker, Heartland Co-op
765 362-6700, Ext 12
Bob, Chris, and Carol

add/
P.O. Box 432
Crautons
47933

2:00 P.M. Countrymark Cooperative } 950 N. Meridian
John Durlam 972-3227 } Inpls - 46204

3:00 P.M. Bob and Chris provide transportation to Colglazier's/Cole's Farms

Evening Phil and Patty Colglazier's/Frank and Joann Cole's

Friday, May 23

Attire - Casual

Transportation Bob Schickel
Pick up at Colglazier's

12:00 Noon Francis and Lavonda Elliott's Dairy Farm
Nutritionist from Kentucky

2:00 P.M. Leave for Gary and Patty Reding's Farm
Bob Schickel and Keegan Poe, IFB Field
Representative will make the exchange

4:00 P.M. Gary and Patty Reding Farm

5:30 P.M. Cookout with:
 Kenny and Julia Bense
 Hank and Betty Lu McGuire
 Keegan Poe
 Patty's parents
 Reding children (four sons)

Extra Interpreter John Hudacek

Evening Hank and Betty Lu McGuire's will transport to
McGuire Home

Saturday, May 24

Visit Bense Farm/McGuire's

Evening, stay with McGuire's

Sunday, May 25

Attire - Casual

9:00 A.M.

McGuire's will transport to Home Office

Rest Day

Indianapolis 500-Mile Race

Host Pete Hanebutt,

Government Relations Division

Extra Interpreter Marie Pavlovsky or
George Fowler

Transportation to Bode's/Jernas' to be
determined

Evening

Wayne and Glenda Bode's/Larry and Vicki
Jernas' Farms

Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day)

Transportation Bode's/Jernas'

Extra Interpreter

Depression Era Farmers

Evening Bode's/Jernas'

Tuesday, May 27

Attire - Business

Transportation to Wabash Bode's/Jernas'

9:30 A.M. Wabash County Farm Bureau Credit Union
Highway 13 through town, (South
Wabash Street)
On right side, about one block before
you cross river bridge

Bruce Ingram, General Manager

10:30 A.M. Carol Hegel and Carolyn Donson, District 4
Woman Leader transport to restaurant

12:00 Noon Lunch, Country Cook Inn

1:30 P.M. Carol and Donson's transport to Indianapolis

Rotunda

3:30 P.M. State Government
David Ford, IFB General Council
Carol Hegel
David and Carol will transport to Home Office

6:00 P.M. Dinner at Home Office

Extra Interpreter - Marie Pavlovsky

State Women's Committee and spouses
Emily and Harold Curie
Eleanor Laffoon
Carolyn and Bill Donson
Sheryl and Bruce Fidler
Ann and Ronnie Wilcoxon
Linda and Mark Bacon
Erna and Richard Lloyd
Wanda and Clarence Kaiser

David Ford - IFB Staff
Bob Kraft - IFB Staff
Shirley Baugh, IFB Women's Division,
and her husband, Bill

Evening	Transportation to Comfort Inn, Indianapolis by Carol and Donson's
Wednesday, May 28	
Attire - Casual	
7:30 A.M.	E. B. Rawles, IFB Field Representative will meet in hotel lobby to transport to Vigo County
10:00 A.M.	Growers Co-op, Inc. Vigo County Keith Bowers, General Manager (Three-county area) One to one and half hours
11:30 A.M.	E. B. will take to lunch and transport to Mark and Susan Smith's Farm
2:00 P.M.	Susan Smith, Montgomery County Woman Leader
3:00 P.M.	Leave Smith Farm and transfer to Janice Wilson, IFB Field Representative, who will take to dinner, and then to Rensselaer
7:00 P.M.	Jasper County Farm Bureau (Refreshments)
Evening	Janice will transport to motel: Interstate Motel 8530 West SR 114 Rensselaer, Indiana 47978 219 866-4164

Thursday, May 29

Attire - Casual

Janice Wilson will transport to West Lafayette
Indiana

9:30 A.M.

Purdue University
John Baugh, Director of Agricultural Services
and Regulations

Tentative program:

Research Areas

Agronomy Farm

Wheat Breeding

Animal Science

Aqua Culture

Dairy

Ag Econ

3:00 P.M.

Transportation from Purdue to Comfort Inn,
Indianapolis by Max Bales, IFB Field
Representative

Thursday, May 29 (continued)

6:00 P.M. Farewell Dinner

Attire - Men, suit
- Women, nice dress or suit

Skyline Club
AUL Building
Illinois Street
Indianapolis

Attending: Harry Pearson
Carol Hegel
Gary and Patty Reding
Marvin and Myrna Metzger
Jim and Bethanne York
Second Interpreter - Marie
Pavlovsky

Evening Comfort Inn, Indianapolis
Carol will stay overnight, also

Friday, May 30

5:30 A.M. Leave hotel for airport
Tentative transportation, Indy Connection

6:50 A.M. Depart Indianapolis Airport
USAir Flight 1494
(Arrive in Washington, D. C. 9:15 A.M. EDT)

A Safe Trip Home!

Attachment 12

Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs

Farm Bureau Expert Assignments: A Summary

1995 - 1997

Name of expert:	Farm Bureau:	Date(s) of visit:	Focus:	Impacts:
1 - Carol Hegel Phone: (317)692-7830 Address: 3330 North 650 East, Andrews, IN 46702	IN	10/28/95 - 11/14/95	Developed protocol between IFB and Taldykorgan PFA	Partnership established between IFB and Taldykorgan PFA
2 - Stacy Land Phone: (317)692-7431 Fax: (317)692-7652 E-mail: sland@falstaff.ucs.indiana.edu Address: 1127 #C Racquet Club North Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46260	IN	2/24/96 - 3/18/96	Helped establish newsletter for Taldykorgan PFA	Conducted workshops, helped newsletter production, installed e-mail, identified radio stations to broadcast programs
3 - Gary Reding Phone: (812)663-3478 Fax: (812)663-9547 E-mail: greiding@mail.hsonline.net Address: 3806 S. County Road 550E, Greensburg, IN 47240	IN	8/3/96 - 8/26/96	Established Information and Consulting Center for the Taldykorgan PFA	Center established for members' use, link between IFB and PFA strengthened
4- James O. York Phone:(317) 473-5984 Fax: (317)472-7378 Address: Route 4, Box 295, Peru, IN 46970	IN	1/23/97 - 2/16/97	Strengthen and support Issyl-Kul oblast and Rayon PFA boards by introducing Farm Bureau model	Generate institutionalization of effective private farm associations
5/6-Henry and Betty Lu McGuire Phone: (812) 546-5920 Address: 2520 North 1110 East Hartsville, IN 47244	IN	2/17/97-3/13/19	Support Taldykorgan oblast and Rayon PFA's by introducing Farm Bureau model	Introduced Farm Bureau model and promoted democratic representation of farmers
7-J.K. Henshaw Phone: (502)495-5106 Fax: (502)495-5114 E-mail: 103114.1166@compuserve.com Address:4109 San Marcos Road, Louisville, KY 40299	KY	1/11/96 - 1/29/96	Solidified partnership agreement between KFB, Fergana PFA, and CNFA	Partnership established between KFB, Fergana PFA and CNFA
8 - David Beck Phone: (502)495-5101	KY	5/4/96 - 5/18/96	Reviewed Fergana PFAs Board of Assn. roles and responsibilities	Conducted workshops on management issues for Fergana PFA members

<p>9- Dwight Greenwell Phone: (502)495-5000 Fax: (502)477-8722 Address: 132 Green Acres, Taylorsville, KY 40071</p>	<p>KY</p>	<p>8/22/96 - 9/15/96</p>	<p>Worked with members of Fergana PFA to develop organizational structure for committees</p>	<p>Workshops conducted for oblast and rayon level PFA boards to help build member participation</p>
<p>10/11- Larry Smith Phone: (606)725-5562 Fax: (606)725-5562 Address: Route 2, Box 222 Ezel, KY 41425 Tony Holloway Phone: (502)235-9600 Fax: (502)235-9600 Address: 10900 Kadiz Rd. Gracey, KY 42232</p>	<p>KY</p>	<p>2/26/97 - 3/19/97</p>	<p>Strengthened participation of members in Fergana PFA. Assisted with elections for head of Rayon PFAs.</p>	<p>Oversaw election of 8 rayon-level PFA farmer-presidents, reinforced democratic and representative structure of Oblast and Rayon PFAs in Uzbekistan</p>
<p>12 - Don Schellenberg Phone: (503)399-1701 Fax: (503)399-8082 Address: 12125 Smithfield Rd., Dallas, OR 97388</p>	<p>OR</p>	<p>8/22/95 - 9/20/95</p>	<p>Cemented cooperative partnership between OFB, Kyrgyz PFA and CNFA</p>	<p>Partnership established between OFB, Kyrgyz PFA and CNFA</p>
<p>13 - John Rossner Phone: (503)843-3057 Fax: (503)843-3057 E-mail: ormail@fb.com Address: 18930 S.W. Bellevue Highway, McMinnville, OR 97128-8804</p>	<p>OR</p>	<p>1/18/96 - 2/20/96</p>	<p>Worked with Kyrgyz PFA staff to implement policy development processes</p>	<p>Workshops conducted explaining processes, assisted oblast staff implement plans</p>
<p>14 - Dennis Myhrum Phone: (541)568-4755 Fax: (541)568-4472 Address: 1102 Water Street, Cove, OR 97824</p>	<p>OR</p>	<p>6/1/96 - 6/25/96</p>	<p>Worked with Osh PFA to strengthen Oblast committee and Rayon Boards of Assns.</p>	<p>Workshops conducted explaining committee structure, role of Board of Associations, and responsibilities</p>
<p>15 - Barry Bushue Phone: (503)663-9099 Fax (503)663-3305 Address: 9880 SE Revenue Rd Boring, OR 97009</p>	<p>OR</p>	<p>5/8/97-6/2/97</p>	<p>Worked with Osh PFA to introduce transparent accounting procedures</p>	<p>Workshops conducted to help develop skills in monthly expense reports and annual budgets</p>

ASHEVILLE, N C: July 7-10, 1997

Rimma Nurtaeva and Aizhan Bekkulova

July 8-10, 1997

Jyldyz Asanakunova

Aid to Artisans Consultant/Contact: Bob Gray

17 Botany Court, Asheville, NC

Tel: 704 298-7780

- Visit the Folk Art Center/Southern Highland Craft Guild, Penland School of Crafts, Handmade in America, and the Haywood Technical College to learn more about how these craft organizations function in the United States, including:
 - How to develop support mechanism for rural artisans and their enterprises;
 - How to create artisan advocacy programs;
 - Working with State and federal government groups; and
 - Developing community support for craft programs.

Asheville TRANSLATOR:

Constance Richards

Asheville HOTEL:

Radisson Hotel

Tel: 704 252-8211

Confirmation # 74430 (Rimma and Aizhan)

74429 (Jyldyz)

Flight Information:

Rimma Nurtaeva & Aizhan Bekkulova

July 7: Flight #548, 9:00 a.m. from Washington National to Charlotte, NC

Flight #805 from Charlotte to Asheville, NC arriving 11:33 a.m.

Jyldyz Asanakunova

July 8 Flight #1278, 8:00 a.m. from Raleigh/Durham, NC to Charlotte

Flight #682 from Charlotte to Asheville, NC arriving 10:13 a.m.

All three

July 10: Flight #61, 10:55 a.m. from Asheville, NC to Charlotte, NC

Flight #828 from Charlotte to Hartford, CT arriving 2:00 p.m.

CONNECTICUT: JULY 10-15, 1997

**Aid to Artisans
Farmington, CT
860 677-1649**

Visit ATA Headquarters to see the scope of ATA's world-wide programs, which are operated through a conscious strategy of leveraging resources. ATA deals with finding resources which are both national and international to assist artisans, from government to the private sector. Marketing and Exporting will be the focus of training while at ATA headquarters, in addition to craft-based NGO development issues.

Topics and meetings to be covered with ATA staff and consultants:

- Introduction to ATA and ATA Projects.
- How ATA programs deal with the challenges of limited communications, transportation and poor infrastructure.
- Building strong artisan-led association/organizations.
- Visit to the Farmington Valley Arts Center: The Farmington Valley Arts Center is a center which combines an educational program in arts, 21 studio workshops for 45 artisan professionals, retail shop featuring high-quality objects and products and a gallery with guest curated exhibits. Trainees will tour the facility, visit artisan professionals in their workshops and meet with center management staff to discuss policies and structure of their program.
- Visit to MCB Customhouse Brokers: Training will give an overview of US Customs regulations, explanation of shipment arrivals, the US Customs computer log-in procedure, as well as good examples of proper packing and shipping invoices.
- Tour of West Hartford Center, Westfarms Mall, and Buckland Hills stores to immerse the trainees in the US marketplace. Trainees will observe how products are displayed, prices, color, design of product, as well as current market trends. They will be able to compare small boutiques, large chain department stores, and cut-rate retailers.
- Craft Village Development: Site visit to Old Sturbridge Village, meet with Director of Education and tour village. Trainees will focus on discussing past and present issues involved in developing and marketing a craft village center.

NET TRAINING CONNECTICUT, July 10-15, 1997

Thurs., July 10

- 2:00 Arrive Hartford (BDL) USAir
- 2:30 Check-in hotel: West Hartford Inn
900 Farmington Ave., West Hartford 06119
860 236-3221, confirmation #R0609
- 4:00 ATA Office, introduction and tour
- 6:30 Dinner at ATA President Clare Brett Smith's

Fri., July 11

- 9:00 ATA Office, training, Colleen
- 11:00 Farmington Valley Art Center, open 11-5
Betty Friedman, Ex. Dir., 678-1867; Avis Cherichetti, potter, 678-0223
- 1:00-2:00 Lunch in Avon
- 2:00-3:00 MCB Customhouse Brokers
Betsey Brome, 860 627-9568
- 4:00-5:30 West Hartford Center stores, Comina, Jacaranda, Pfau's Hardware.
3D Bed and Bath
Dinner Free

Sat., July 12

- 10:00-11:30 Mark Twain House, open 9:30-4:00, 493-6411, \$7.50 admission
- 12:00-4:00 Lunch at Buckland Hills
Visit Pier 1 Imports, Christmas Tree Shop, Walmart
- 6:30 Pick up at W.H. Inn for Dinner with
Sally and Donald Hammerberg, 1 Deer Run, Farmington, 677-9421

Sun., July 13

- Morning Free
- 12:00-3:00 West Farms Mall, self-guided tour
- 6:30 Pick up at W.H. Inn for Dinner with
Sally and James Foster, 435 Waterville Rd., Avon. 677-5278

Mon., July 14

- 9:00 Pick up W. H. Inn for day trip to Old Sturbridge Village
Eric White, Dir. Of Education and Public Programs, 508 347-3362
Dinner Free

New York City: July 15 - 18, 1997

Aid to Artisans Consultant/Contact: Sheila Meyer

New York, NY

Tel: 212 691-1331

- **Market Trend Workshop:** Learn about the US market and the most current trends on color, function, price, design and patterns. Attend a workshop on visual materials such as catalogs and magazines and learn to create your own market trend sheets.
- **Retail and Museum Store Tours:** visit specific retail areas in New York such as 5th Avenue, various museum shops, Soho and Greenwich Village, as well as specialty shops for bed and bath and Christmas products. Learn about how products are displayed, process, color, design of product as well as exposure to current market trends.

Friday, July 18

- **Experience New York independently.** Gray Line runs NYC Sight Seeing Tour every hour on a first come first serve basis. Purchase tickets early. Please see attached information for details.
 - Gray Line Tours
 - 900 8th Avenue
 - (Located between 53rd & 54th Streets)
- **6:20 pm:** Leave New York via Amtrack from Grand Central Station

NYC TRANSLATOR:

Michel Quicksner (?sp.)

NYC HOTEL:

Milford Plaza Hotel

270 West 45th Street

New York, NY 10036

Tel: 212 869-3600

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Rimma Nurtaeva

Professional Affiliations/Positions:

President of ATA partner NGO *Shiber Aul*

Country:

Almaly, Kazakstan

Language:

Russian

Training Objectives and Background Information:

Ms. Nurtaeva is president of *Shiber Aul*, a craft village outside of Almaty, Kazakstan. *Shiber Aul* maintains retail outlets in the capital, at the Central Museum and the Kzak Drama Theater. *Shiber Aul*, of all the ATA partner NGOs, has probably encountered the most difficulties in making progress toward its goals of increasing sales and employment opportunities for village members. Despite the extreme dedication of NGO leaders, most members have remained reluctant to take initiative in putting ATA-introduced business concepts and new product ideas into action. Product lines remain largely unchanged and prices remain high. Many artisans in this rural NGO seem confused about ATA and leadership objectives and tend to view ATA as a potential buyer (due to purchases of new product samples) rather than a training organization.

The key objective for Ms. Nurtaeva is for her to visit craft villages which create sales and employment such as Old Sturbridge Village and Colonial Williamsburg.