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**THE COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM**

**NGO SUPPORT INITIATIVE FOR CENTRAL ASIA**

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**QUARTERLY REPORT**

**July 1 – September 30, 1998**

**Submitted to USAID/Almaty**

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**ATTACHMENTS**  
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1. SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE REPORT
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## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Regional Social Partnership Conference Brings Collaboration to New Level**

In September, Counterpart brought together more than 150 representatives of NGOs, government, the private sector and the media to develop practical, action-oriented strategies for collaboration among stakeholders in development. Conference funding itself reflected social partnership concepts, leveraging corporate support from local and international businesses – covering almost 40% of the total budget for the conference. This carefully planned event has already delivered impacts and mobilized collaborative efforts across the region. For example, 10 journalists from all 5 Central Asian countries formed the Association of Journalists for Social Partnership and are forming organizations in each country and developing the framework for a regional effort to increase public awareness of and support for NGO activities and social partnership initiatives. (See Impact Section for a complete report of this impact.) A comprehensive description of this event and, more importantly, the results it has delivered, can be found in Attachment 1.

### **Innovative New Ideas Explored and Field-Tested in the Context of USAID Strategic Objectives**

Woven throughout the components, inputs and initiatives that make up the Consortium program in Central Asia are a number of creative ideas being implemented to maximize impact now and field-tested for possible replication in the future. Among them are included:

- Local Program Officers in Kyrgyzstan are team-teaching a course in NGO Fundamentals at a local university to help establish an NGO curriculum and to increase the number of talented graduates who choose to enter the field of NGO management.
- In Uzbekistan, NGOs and Counterpart Program Staff have begun working together to develop new strategies for achieving community development in partnership with the local mahallah structure of neighborhood councils.
- In Tajikistan, a new training module has been tailored to meet the unique needs of Tajikistan NGOs focusing on problem identification and problem solving in the context of conflict resolution.
- In Kazakhstan, the Constituency Building Division has pioneered creative new techniques to generate publicity and public education through the media, including the use of radio call-in shows and the inclusion of digital photographs in press kits for special events.

### **Consortium Partner Aid to Artisans (ATA) Project Gains Media Coverage with Support from Constituency Building Division**

A press conference held in conjunction with the ground-breaking ceremonies for construction of improved facilities at the Shiber Aul Artisan village gained more press coverage than any single country event publicized by Counterpart's Constituency Building Division. More than 35 items in 3 languages were included in a variety of media throughout Kazakhstan. This project, spearheaded by ATA, leverages more than \$90,000 from Texaco. A more detailed description of this successful project can be found in the body of this report in the Constituency Building Report on page 11 and in the Aid to Artisan's report on Page 50 and in Attachment 2.

**Partnership with League of Women Voters Contributes to Election Activities Throughout the Region**

Funded through a partnership grant to two NGOs in Kazakhstan, the Colorado League of Women Voters helped their partners master valuable skills in organizing issue and candidate forums – especially relevant in light of upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections. The partners also invited representatives from two NGOs in Kyrgyzstan so that they could begin developing their own skills and plans for a similar partnership. IFES, working directly on elections for USAID, utilized the US partner’s expertise to help in their work with Kyrgyz elections. The League also conducted a pilot training in partnership with a Tajikistani NGO. Follow-up to solidify this regional initiative will leave a legacy of NGO capacity in election involvement across the region.

## II. BROAD SECTOR SUPPORT: COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL

### A. PROJECT 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. PROJECT IMPACTS

#### ***Constituency Building Through the Media Division Impacts***

##### ***Journalists Form Regional Association for Social Partnership***

To varying degrees throughout the region, journalists and media organizations face serious pressure inhibiting unbiased reporting of democratic initiatives in society. Previous attempts to foster collaboration among journalists in order to strengthen this sector have been constrained due to reluctance among journalists to collaborate. As a direct result of excitement generated by Counterpart Consortium's recent Social Partnership Conference, journalist delegates formed an association to foster increased media attention on the importance of social partnerships and the role that NGOs are already playing in the movement. Not only will the association deliver future results in increased public awareness, but is an important grassroots effort to organize on the part of Central Asian journalists.

##### ***Public Awareness Campaign Influences Corporate and Government Policy***

Kyrgyzstan experiences severe and on-going electricity shortages that exacerbate a number of on-going economic and social problems. There has been very little dialogue involving NGOs and citizens to develop solutions or even to identify components of the problem. The Consumer Rights Association of Kyrgyzstan (CRA) has been working with the Counterpart Consortium Constituency Building Division and another USAID contractor to develop and produce a comprehensive media campaign to involve citizens in solving this problem. CRA has gained greatly strengthened media skills as a result and has already demonstrated the following impacts:

- As a result of the resulting gain in stature of CRA and its target issue, CRA has been able to convince the National Energy Commission to send a representative to their meetings about the electricity shortage.
- CRA documented a large number of individual consumer complaints that small appliances were being damaged due to frequent brownouts. When brought to the attention of local power providers, they set up a free repair program for affected consumers.

##### ***National Housing Association Established Press Office to Increase Public Awareness through Media***

Housing Associations in Kazakhstan continue to lack skill in influencing public opinion and attracting a broader constituency through media. In collaboration with the Counterpart Consortium's Constituency Building Division the National Housing Association has launched a comprehensive campaign to improve public awareness of housing issues and the role of housing associations. Due to the demonstrable results generated by the Housing Issues Awareness Campaign, the National Housing Association has opened its own press office to localize and broaden on-going efforts and to provide stronger media outreach service. With a comprehensive package of support from Counterpart Consortium, this Association has strengthened its internal capacity, is mobilizing citizen involvement in housing issues and gaining greater respect among government officials.

### ***Call-In Radio Programs Offer New Approach for NGOs to Involve and Educate the Public***

Private Housing Associations and Counterpart Consortium's Constituency Building Division partnered to produce a one-hour talk show on National Kazakh Radio (NKR) to discuss housing issues in both Kazakh and Russian languages in June 1998. Due to the high volume of call-ins in both languages, NKR scheduled additional one-hour shows on the same subject two days later. Modeled after this successful collaboration between NGOs, Counterpart Consortium and the media, the Center for Healthy Lifestyles replicated the approach focusing on disease prevention in conjunction with USAID's Healthy Lifestyle Campaign. As a result, NGOs and NKR have begun discussions about production of a regularly scheduled program to allow greater direct citizen input into problems, new ideas and NGO activities. NGOs are now able to generate support and direct involvement from a constituency of over seven million listeners throughout Kazakhstan.

### **Kazakhstan Impacts**

#### ***Consumer Groups to Monitor Antimonopoly Committee Resolutions***

The area of Kazakhstan surrounding the new capital city, Astana, is geographically isolated and has not had adequate access to training tailored to the specific needs of consumers. Consumer Advocates of Astana organized a series of workshops in government relations for 16 consumer groups of North and Central Kazakhstan with grant funding from Counterpart Consortium. The participating NGOs then successfully lobbied the head of the Anti-Monopoly Committee to create an Advisory Council composed of consumer NGO representatives. The Council will review every new law for its impact on consumers and provide advice to the Committee.

#### ***Creative Advocacy Approach Results in Freeze of Utility Rate Increases in Almaty***

NGO Pokolenie members identified rapidly increasing utility prices as a priority problem. Informal research indicated that customers, including pensioners, were being routinely over-charged. This summer, during the hottest months of the year, Pokolenie monitored actual water use with meters purchased with a Counterpart Consortium grant. The resulting data delivered strong proof that Tractebel, a Belgian utility conglomerate that operates Almaty's electricity, heating, water and gas systems, was charging nearly twice the actual usage. Pokolenie launched a mass media campaign reporting their findings and calling for a utility rate freeze until meters can be installed on a wider scale to allow for billing based on actual usage. Media coverage generated by Pokolenie generated strong public pressure against Tractebel and as a result, pensioner's rates have been frozen and Tractebel is under investigation.

#### ***NGO Collaboration Furthers Parent Involvement in Disability Rights***

Two Counterpart grantees, "Umit," and Society "ZHAN," an NGO which specializes in legal protection of disabled children and their families, developed a series of one-day seminars for deaf children and their parents on the issue of legal rights for disabled people, particularly deaf children. They focused on Kazakh and international laws ratified by the Kazakh parliament. The seminars were organized on behalf of the Almaty Boarding School for Deaf Children and were the first of their kind conducted in Kazakhstan. They not only informed deaf children and their parents of their rights, but also, using the case study method, taught the methodology of disabled children's rights protection. The seminars will continue monthly from mid-summer 1998 to spring 1999 and will be accompanied by a monthly bulletin on relevant topics.

### ***Innovative Member Service Generates Income and Gains Government Support***

Counterpart training helped the Taraz-based "Diabet" society establish win-win relations with local administration. This summer, using skills acquired at Counterpart training, "Diabet" successfully negotiated with the local government for a large, centrally-located office space in a government building, which is in short supply and great demand in smaller cities throughout Kazakhstan. The Counterpart seminar on Financial Sustainability helped "Diabet" develop a service delivery program that local officials valued enough to provide space in which to house it. Diabet has established a commercial subsidiary that sells specialized foods to diabetics and uses the proceeds to help fund the organization and pay salaries to doctors who specialize in diabetes.

### ***Grassroots Curriculum Helps Children Become Advocates for Environmental Protection***

Two years ago with the help of a Corporate Challenge Grant Chevron Munaigas, ecological education booklets featuring a puppet called Jelly Jam were distributed among a group of Kazakhstan teachers of English in local primary schools. Jelly Jam, which is the creation of American ecology activist Judi Friedman has been used successfully in a number of cultures to encourage conservation and preservation of the environment. The booklets were rarely used in Kazakhstan, however, because teachers were not clear on how to present them. In August, with a Corporate Challenge grant from Counterpart, assistance from USAID's Global Training program, and support from Chevron, Ms. Friedman came to Kazakhstan to present a five-day seminar for 16 teachers representing all oblasts of Kazakhstan and six leaders of local NGOs. The Training of Trainers format means that there will be trained proponents of the Jelly Jam methodology throughout the country and that NGOs as well as schools will be involved. The success of the workshop resulted in a request by the Ministry of Education to produce Jelly Jam teacher training materials in the Kazakh Language.

### ***Government Models National Education Program After Junior Achievement Training***

Junior Achievement (JA), a Counterpart Consortium grantee, has adapted an integrated applied economics curriculum for use in Kazakhstan and have already trained 2,000 teachers in the content and methodology. Since 1995, more than 100,000 children have participated in this proven program throughout Kazakhstan. Due to the success of JA programs, the Ministry of Education has formalized the inclusion of two JA courses in the official curriculum for 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> forms throughout the country.

### ***Kyrgyzstan Impacts***

#### ***Fledgling Private Housing Associations Share Regional Lessons Learned***

Large apartment buildings, formerly maintained through the centrally controlled Soviet system, are rapidly falling into disrepair. Although many have been privatized, new owners are not organized to advocate for the interests of tenants, improve housing conditions, control rent and utility payments and sign maintenance contracts. The Regional Association of Condominiums (RAC), funded with an initial support grant from Counterpart, has conducted a series of preliminary activities to promote the idea of private housing associations at the community level. One activity included a mini-internship with the Almaty, Kazakhstan Housing Association, a stronger and more experienced NGO. As a result, the RAC has established a strategic plan for future activities, strengthened ties with a similar association in the region and has gained new membership from three new privatized buildings.

### ***Association Catalyzes Social Partnerships, Expands Membership and Funding Base***

On March 24, 1998, the Association of Social Workers received a grant from Counterpart Consortium to train the staff of oblast, rayon and city government social welfare departments in new methods of providing community services to disabled, vulnerable and low-income groups within the framework of a poverty alleviation program. With on-going technical assistance from Counterpart, a team of trainers trained in community service delivery, project design and proposal writing for 5 months. Following are a number of impacts resulting from this activity:

- 12 newly established public foundations, centers and unions encompassing 150 people joined the Association, greatly expanding its membership base.
- The association has documented a dramatic increase in visits from beneficiaries seeking assistance in registration, charter development, project design and other issues.
- The association assisted in establishing a foster family home in the Issyk-Kul Oblast and "Sairagul" Non-Governmental Foundation, in which 15 low-income families have hot lunches every day.
- Four new NGOs are currently being registered at the Ministry of Justice to continue projects developed during ASW training.
- In addition, Counterpart has facilitated a partnership with the Russia-European Foundation and Rehab Medical Firm, funded by the Russian partner, the Mayor of Bishkek and the British Know-How Fund – a major step toward financial and programmatic sustainability for the Association.

### ***Water Users Association Leads Integrated Democratic Community Development***

As a result of the work of Osh Oblast NGO "Ata-Jurt", residents in Sara-Bulak village now have a plumbing system that provides 2,000 residents with clean drinking water. (The only previous water source was a nearby river.)

- 100% of the necessary funds were raised from local governing bodies and community contributions.
- Ata-Jurt helped villagers establish a five-member water resources board to monitor utilization of the plumbing system and provided training to the Board in the operation and maintenance of the system.
- System upkeep will be funded by a system of monthly water use fees.

Counterpart has provided on-going support to Ata-Jurt, including access to training workshops, one-on-one technical assistance and grant support. In addition, Counterpart just facilitated and funded a partnership between Ata-Jurt and the International Secretariat for Water, a Canadian organization. This partnership will further strengthen this NGO's ability to create democratic systems for community water management in Central Asia and foster linkages with other water users associations around the world through ISW's extensive grassroots network.

### ***Advocacy on Behalf of Chernobyl Clean-up Workers Mobilizes Community Development***

The disaster at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station in 1986 affected the health of thousands of people participating in the cleanup activities, including a sizeable group from Nookat Region in Kyrgyzstan. The Nookat Association of Chernobyl Workers was created in January 1995 and has been an active participant in Counterpart Consortium programs since then – including a start-up grant of \$750 for training and creating jobs for clean up workers. Since its inception, the Association has diversified its funding base with a grant from UNDP for micro-credit lending and now generates income from a variety of small businesses and rental income. Experience in project design and fundraising helped "Chernobyl" to diversify its fundraising activities. Counterpart support helped "Chernobyl" become a valued partner in community development. Now, Chernobyl actively participates in planning of the local budget for allocating funds to match community needs and is targeted for a sizeable allocation (the equivalent of \$15,000 in local currency) from the local government budget to continue their community development work.

### ***Former Counterpart Consortium Tolerance Education Program Successfully Localized***

54% of the population and 80 ethnic groups are concentrated in southern Kyrgyzstan – the site of interethnic conflict in 1991 that demonstrated the need for tolerance education. After completion of a Tolerance Education and Conflict Transformation Project funded by UNHCR and managed by Counterpart, project staff formed “Harmony and Tolerance” to localize and sustain tolerance education in Kyrgyzstan. Counterpart Consortium continues to provide assistance in the form of consulting services in localization issues, training, Internet and e-mail services. UNHCR is providing funding support. The NGO has conducted 28 seminars in interactive methods for 1105 teachers, college and high school students in two oblasts, translated 5 publications into 4 local languages and distributed them free of charge to all schools in Kyrgyzstan. Recently, the NGO signed a contract with UNHCR to provide a series of seminars to introduce their model in Ukraine. They are also working with the Red Cross to establish a regional tolerance education project in the Fergana Valley, Uzbekistan.

### ***NGO Spearheads Efforts to Foster Government Support for the Sector***

The Center of Women's Initiatives (CWI) in Talas realized that the critical barrier to NGO-government collaboration is the misunderstanding of the role of the NGO sector by government officials. To foster dialogue, CWI conducted a series of roundtables to engage local officials from village administrations, social welfare departments and other agencies in four districts of Talas oblast in summer 1998. The Talas Oblast Governor supported these efforts and Counterpart Consortium's NGO Support Center provided technical assistance. The first concrete impact has already been documented. The local government of the Bakay Ata Rayon is providing free premises to the Nuska Artisan Co-op. NGOs throughout Talas report much greater willingness to collaborate after the roundtables.

### ***NGO Advocacy Efforts Result in Integrated Education for Disabled Children***

There are 170 disabled children in Naryn who cannot attend schools due to various physical and/or mental disabilities. NGO Bayastan, established in Naryn in 1997, focuses on education integration, including research, advocacy and educational programs. Bayastan has been an active participant in a broad range of Counterpart support programs, including training, on-going consultations and a small grant. With funding support from another donor, Bayastan leadership participated in a workshop in India focused on integrated public school education methodology. After they returned, they integrated this information into a roundtable organized by the Counterpart NGO Support Center in Naryn, which included attendees from local education and health ministries. Combined with additional advocacy efforts, Bayastan has convinced local officials to establish a special committee, including government officials, teachers, NGO and community leaders. The committee will guide integration of disabled children into three schools and two kindergartens as a pilot project in the oblast.

### ***Localized Legal Education and Consulting Services Support Legal Reform***

The low level of legal awareness and inadequate development of legal reforms in the Osh Oblast promoted the establishment of the Fund of Legal Reform Support. The NGO conducts seminars on legal reform and NGO taxation issues, provides individual consultation services, and publishes a monthly newsletter called "*NGOs, Citizens, Laws*". This NGO is an active participant in Counterpart Consortium training and networking activities and has received two small grants. The NGO now has 4 permanent staff and a well-equipped office and provides legal support for the Osh Oblast NGO community. In 1997-98, 200 people received consulting services on legal issues and 60 NGO representatives attended training in NGO legislation.

### ***Advocating for Individual Rights and Increasing Legal Awareness in Rural Kyrgyzstan***

NGO "Justice" promotes legal education and facilitates individual human rights abuse cases for international monitoring agencies. Their activities include publication of a newsletter called *Laws for Everybody*, regular appearances on TV and radio and frequent articles on human rights in print media. As a result of a meeting with the Democracy Development Foundation, the NGO received a \$12,997 grant, which was used to expand the NGO activities throughout the Jalal-Abad region. In 1997, the NGO defended the rights of 228 people. Since January 1998, the group has published 250 copies of a newsletter, "Laws for Everybody", designed to improve the level of legal awareness of the population and encourage the development of democracy.

### **Tajikistan Impacts**

#### ***Teachers NGO Leads Collaboration in Conflict Education***

Many communities in Tajikistan have not been able to complete peaceful reconciliation following civil conflict and population displacements. With a broad package of support services from Counterpart Consortium, a group of highly motivated teachers has formed an NGO to take the lead in conflict transformation and tolerance education in severely impacted areas of southern Tajikistan. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, more than 50 middle-school teachers have already received re-training. Teachers and the Ministry are eager to develop creative ways to revitalize teachers' roles as catalysts for community development. The methodology used in this program has been adapted from a Counterpart program in Kyrgyzstan.

### **Turkmenistan Impacts**

#### ***Turkmenistan NGO Leads Formation of Regional Civics Education Association***

Formed in 1993, Dialogue is a leading civic education NGO in Turkmenistan and the region. They were among the first Turkmen attendees in Counterpart training workshops and have been pro-active participants in Counterpart activities since the office in Turkmenistan opened in 1997. They were also the first recipients of a Counterpart Consortium NGO Support Grant in Turkmenistan in 1995. The civic education manual funded by this grant has been circulated to more than 6 Russian speaking countries and is being used by other NGOs in the CIS. Dialogue has established strong partnerships with a number of dynamic civic education NGOs across the region, including Golubka (Moscow), and two other Counterpart grantees, Tashkent Training Center, and the Association of Young Leaders (Kazakhstan). Based on the success of these partnerships, which involve staff exchanges, curriculum development and cross-training, these partners have formed InterTraining – a regional association of civic education NGOs, which has recently been registered in Russia. The objective is to encourage social partnerships and to institutionalize ongoing exchanges of information and training skills. As a result of one recent collaboration between InterTraining members, 13 students from Turkmenistan won a competition to attend a leadership training in Kazakhstan and returned with new skills that they applied in training 500 additional students in their schools.

#### ***Accountants and Auditors Association Established with Assistance from Uzbekistan NGO***

After attending two Counterpart Consortium training workshops, Counterpart staff helped the newly formed Association of Accountants and Auditors of Turkmenistan establish contact with a similar association with more experience in Uzbekistan. An exchange visit to Tashkent delivered an array of experience, practical strategies adapted for the Central Asian context, training materials and plans to continue collaboration in the future. As the result of an open house announced in a local newspaper, 14 new members joined the Association, which now includes members from the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Department of Tax Inspection and accountants from a number of local and international organizations. At the open house, members also formed a new board of directors and committed to supporting the association with initial membership dues payments and regular submissions of industry news and information to share with other members. Follow-up plans include review of the NGO's

charter, the development of fee for service training and a continued partnership with the association in Uzbekistan.

#### ***NGO Agriculture Project Spurs Collaboration with Local Government***

Kopet Dag NGO received a grant from Counterpart in June of this year to carry out an innovative project to develop soybean cultivation in two regions of Turkmenistan. The project focuses also on empowering women living in rural areas to play a greater role in the management of farms and includes training workshops which are designed to take the women from a stage of passive participation to one of active decision-making. During the project design phase, Kopet-Dag formed a working relationship with the local Agriculture Administration, which agreed to provide land for the project free of charge. Kopet Dag has distributed seeds, facilitated meetings of participants (mostly women), conducted training in new cultivation techniques and videotaped training activities for promotional purposes. As a result of this well executed and valuable project, village leaders have agreed to water the test plots free of charge - contributing additional resources to the project from the village level.

#### ***Public Information Resource Center Opened in National Library***

Access to information continues to be an overarching constraint to social and economic development in Turkmenistan. The National Library in Ashgabad logs large numbers of users on a daily basis and houses four NGO offices, but has had no public information center in its facilities. With a variety of support from Counterpart Consortium, including training and facilitation of an equipment donation from the British Embassy, the library has opened a public information center, with specially allocated access to computer equipment for the NGOs housed there. Counterpart informational materials will be distributed here and plans are being developed for collaboration on a series of roundtable discussions co-hosted by the Library, its NGO tenants and Counterpart Consortium.

#### ***Concrete Support for Vulnerable Citizens Spurs Volunteerism and Charitable Giving***

In July of this year, Nargiz NGO (an active trainee and grantee) was awarded \$300 for submitting the winning project idea to the regional "Women Developing Society" contest organized as part of a Counterpart Consortium constituency building campaign. The idea was very simple: to collect local donations of clothing and household items, repair, clean and distribute them to the NGO's target population (single mothers, families with many children and the elderly). With the \$300 contest prize, they immediately developed a list of the most needy families in their community. They put up fliers to attract volunteers and advertise pick-up points. As a result, Nargiz worked with 10 volunteers to provide 26 families with clothing and other supplies. In order to leverage this successful project further, the NGO contacted Gray Doves International and distributed supplies they provided to an additional 14 people. The local mayor has publicly endorsed these activities and the NGO's work in this remote area has received wide acclaim.

#### **Uzbekistan Impacts**

##### ***Upgrading Teacher's Skills and Increasing Workforce Marketability***

Children and Parents NGO provides a number of services to improve education in Uzbekistan. In addition to publishing a newspaper for teenagers, they were awarded a Counterpart Consortium support grant to combat the drop in living standards among teachers resulting from overall economic decline, RIFs and low salaries. Adapting methodology learned through participation in Counterpart training workshops, they have already trained more than 300 teachers in participatory methodology and interactive teaching techniques. The training included development of new skills in marketing and job search techniques. After only 2 months, 15% of the trainees have already found higher paying employment in a variety of primary and secondary jobs, including in some of Tashkent's private schools.

### ***Successful Advocacy for Disabled Access to Public Buildings***

The Karakalpak Society of the Disabled has achieved a great victory for the disabled community in this isolated and conservative region of Uzbekistan. A long time beneficiary of Counterpart NGO support programs, members gained renewed impetus through participation in Counterpart Consortium's first Advocacy Training Workshop held in Karakalpakstan. The Vocation School of the Karakalpak Society of the Disabled has reached an agreement with the government that no new public building may be built without the Vocation School's "disabled access" stamp of approval. This is the first successful effort of this kind in Central Asia.

### ***Karakalpakstan NGO Coalition Lobbies for Representation on National Drafting Committee***

NGOs in Karakalpakstan perceive that their needs were not being effectively represented by the National Center for Human Rights, which is the official government sanctioned representative in many NGO matters in Uzbekistan. They wanted representation on the working group for NGO legislation and developed an advocacy to win a seat on the committee. With assistance requested from Counterpart's Nukus NGO Support Center, The Karakalpak NGO Coalition adopted a resolution deploring their non-inclusion in the working group on NGO legislation. They executed a letter writing campaign to key government officials and followed up with a series of meetings. As a result, the Director of the Center consented to the addition of at least one representative from Karakalpakstan in the working group.

### ***Engaging Law Enforcement Officials in Dialogue about Domestic Violence Taboos***

The Perzent Center for Reproductive Health in Nukus held a highly successful seminar on practical techniques for combating domestic violence with support from Counterpart Consortium and USIS. Although it is too early to determine the full impact of this event, the active participation of representatives from the policy departments of 17 districts is a strong indicator of success in itself. Domestic violence is a very sensitive subject in Uzbekistan and official law enforcement bodies are seldom supportive or at all responsive to discussion of new approaches.

### ***Advocating for Individual Member Rights Strengthens Disability Rights Organization***

On-going efforts to advocate for individual member rights is dramatically increasing visibility and member involvement for Counterpart grantee Matonat Society for the Disabled. They have recently helped members of the disabled community gain the rights to reduced-price medication, telephone service, child benefits, employment, medical services and other entitlements.

### ***New Women's NGO Coalition Goal to Avoid Duplication in Reproductive Health Programs***

Women's NGOs in Uzbekistan have traditionally been unable to sustain collaborative efforts, succumbing to continued competitiveness and rivalry. A number of successful women's reproductive rights activities have not been effectively coordinated, thus diminishing the potential impact of valuable efforts. With support and services provided through Counterpart's Tashkent Information Center (co-funded by UNHCR), the Center for Women-Leaders (CWL), a Counterpart grantee, has formed a partnership with the International Federation for Family Planning to develop a strategic plan for future activities and collaboration. With the increased credibility provided by the partnership, CWL held a seminar for 15 NGOs with similar missions, resulting in the formation of an informal coordinating group to avoid duplication and share information about the portion of their activities directly related to reproductive health programs. A seminar for journalists was held at the conclusion of the seminar to publicize the new initiative and the availability of sources of information and support for reproductive health issues in Uzbekistan.

## C. CONSTITUENCY BUILDING THROUGH THE MEDIA COMPONENT

### OBJECTIVE 6

**Build support and constituencies for democratic change and reform supporting USAID Strategic Objectives and improve understanding by the media of the role of NGOs in a civil and democratic society and media's role in creating change in a democratic society.**

#### **Regional Conference on Social Partnership**

The Constituency Building Division provided extensive technical assistance to media participants slated to attend the conference and took an active role in laying the foundation for a successful conference. They consulted in the preparation of articles, distributed press kits and press releases throughout the region and developed filming plans for a development of social partnership videos and other media spots. They also took a lead role in organization of the "Gallery Walk" mentioned in the attached report on the Social Partnership Regional Conference.

As a result of their contributions, media representatives played an active role in the conference and formed a Regional Association of Journalists for Social Partnership. Journalists in all five countries have already begun development of follow-up activities and have all requested continued assistance from Counterpart Consortium. In Kyrgyzstan, a press conference was held covering the results of the regional conference, including the introduction of a new training module on Social Partnership. The Journalist Association is developing a partnership with a commercial network and has begun registration with the Ministry of Justice.

#### **Role of NGOs in Affecting Public Policy**

##### ***Regional***

Planned and conducted two-day pilot regional training on televised candidate debates in cooperation with IFES, Internews and local Kyrgyz NGOs:

- Training was developed around the training video created by CB unit from the last year's Kazakhstan Candidate TV debates, journalist seminar on debates and materials developed by League of Women Voters of the USA. The video was distributed to all participating groups to use with their NGOs and television stations while conducting debates over the next two years.
- Over 30 NGO leaders, journalists, election commission officials and candidates from Kyrgyzstan plus NGO observers from Kazakhstan participated in the training. NGO leaders assisted by conducting group-forming exercises and leading discussions on the role of NGOs in conducting candidate debates. Two NGO leaders from Kyrgyzstan represented five Civic education NGOs in order to effectively work with their NGOs to organize candidate debates in their own communities.

#### **Value of Laws Supporting Free Association and NGO Activities**

With ICNL in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, began plans for conducting media campaigns on the importance of updating laws concerning NGOs.

- CB coordinators are acquainting themselves with background information.
- In order to get updated legislation drafted and passed, plans will be enacted in each country at different times and with country specific messages based on the most helpful time and way to release information.

## **Role of NGO in Civil Society**

### ***Regional***

Worked with Kazakh NGO to develop a weekly 15-minute magazine-style TV program for stations with which they have agreements for free airtime in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to cover issues related to NGOs and their work in Central Asia. Activities included:

- Exploring joint use of videotaped materials from throughout the region;
- Discussing ways we could assist with translation and distribution of their program to other countries in the region;
- Advising country and regional grant committee on the project's viability;
- Contracting with NGO to provide videotape duplication for remainder of the project in order to assist them with the purchase of equipment to produce their program.

Explored idea of outsourcing some regional and national media production to local NGOs as a way to localize Constituency Building Activities and provide sustainability. Activities included:

- Consulting with interested NGO leaders;
- Viewing NGO productions; and
- Reviewing plans and budgets.

### ***Kazakhstan***

Instituted the regular preparation of video scripts, press releases and radio programs in Kazakh language. Developed extensive Public Relations for two Corporate Challenge grant programs:

#### **Jelly Jam (Chevron)**

This environmental education program training was conducted in Almaty with NGO leaders and teachers from across Kazakhstan. Activities included:

- press conference for local media featuring the Jelly Jam Trainer, two representatives of Chevron, one NGO leader and one teacher who had completed the training;
- press kit including information about Jelly Jam Program, Chevron and Counterpart's NGO program;
- press release in Kazakh and Russian;
- attendance by representatives from 11 media outlets, resulting in three TV news spots, one radio news spot and four newspaper articles;
- Kazakh translation of featured trainer for radio interview;
- videotaped press conference for possible use in upcoming NGO news programs and as a resource for sponsor and training providers; and
- follow-up with training participants to see how they are using the training.

#### **Sheber Aul Groundbreaking Ceremony (Texaco)**

Planned and conducted press conference for Groundbreaking ceremony of major grant from Texaco oil company to local artisan NGO, Sheber Aul. Groundbreaking and press conference was held September 2, 1998. Preparation of the press kit included the following items:

- Project press release with USAID/USIS clearance)
- Briefing paper on Sheber Aul
- TEXACO community service activities briefing paper
- Agenda
- List of local foods to be served at ceremony & in teahouse
- ATA regional newsletter (1st ed.)
- Peace Corps Brochure
- Counterpart Brochure

For this press conference, Counterpart tried two new approaches for building media support:

- Providing a computer disk that included logos for TEXACO, ATA, Sheber Aul, USAID, Peace Corps, Counterpart and the Government of Kazakhstan along with photos of Final Architectural Plan and Sheber Aul village and artisans at work.
- Providing mini-vans to transport journalists to the event, which was 12 kilometers from the city.

As a result of these new approaches, over 30 journalists attended representing 26 media outlets which resulted in 14 newspaper articles, 10 radio news clips on six stations and 11 TV news clips on seven stations for a total of 35 media items. The Artisan Groundbreaking resulted in the most press coverage of any single Country event conducted by CB staff in the life of the project. Success of the event stemmed from the joint cooperation in preparation and the transportation provided to media personnel for this out-of-town event. Media personnel also expressed appreciation for press releases and background information provided in Kazakh, Russian and English as well as a computer disk of photographs and program logo which they could be used to accompany newspaper articles.

### *Kyrgyzstan*

Conducted ongoing campaign to inform the public about the role of NGOs in a civil society:

- With the support of Ata-Jurt NGO, the creative unit of the National TV Corporation of Kyrgyzstan, prepared a 20-min TV program entitled "Civil Society: The Kyrgyz Way of Development." It was devoted to democratization of the society, freedom of speech and development of public non-governmental organizations in Kyrgyzstan.
- The Consumer Rights Association Aikyn and the Center for Professional Training of Disabled Children requested a copy of the Central Asian TV program "Building a Civil Society." They plan to show this program to office visitors, clients, and interested donors as an example of how NGOs are working in Central Asia.
- Worked with mass media spokeswoman of the newly created Federation of Youth Organizations of Kyrgyzstan to learn how to provide information and prepare press releases.
- Placed more than 20 articles on activities of Kyrgyzstan NGOs and Counterpart Consortium in the Internet news section.

### *Tajikistan*

Counterpart Consortium, in cooperation with local NGO Association Mehrona, conducted a tea party for representatives of Tajik media, NGOs and government officials. Coverage included two reports on state radio (in Tajik and Russian), two comprehensive reports on the public television station and one article in the state newspaper. The primary goal of the tea party was to improve relationships between the journalists and representatives of third sector by:

- establishing contact between representatives of NGOs and the media in unofficial situations; and
- helping representatives of the media and NGOs understand the significance of cooperation in solving society problems.

Organized a meeting of journalists from local media with participants of Counterpart Consortium's workshop "Public education through media." The four journalists in attendance were asked questions by the NGOs such as: what are they interested in; how do they select subjects for their articles or programs; what is the average time between selecting material and publishing it; and how to make journalists interested in NGO's activities. At the end of the meeting journalists and trainees exchanged addresses and agreed to cooperate in the future.

### ***Turkmenistan***

Conducted a press conference following the judging of the 36 contest entries for the Women Society Development Contest. Announcement of the winners at a press conference following the contest resulted in six newspaper articles, six radio programs and 10 TV interview spots in the national media.

### ***Uzbekistan***

Conducted a roundtable for leaders of Tashkent NGOs and radio/TV journalists to discuss NGO activity for this month. Eleven Tashkent NGOs and One Gulistan NGO participated. Journalists from Uzbekistan Radio participated in the discussion and interviewed NGO leaders

## **Health Reform/Healthy Lifestyles Campaign**

### ***Kazakhstan***

Organized judging of three Health Journalism contests and continued monitoring and follow-up of the six-month Healthy Lifestyles/Health Reform Selected Comprehensive Campaign in cooperation with Abt Associates and Ministry of Health officials. Activities included:

- collection, screening and distribution each month of eligible entries to judges of Health Journalism contest entries;
- facilitation of judging committee by the regional video specialist, who also served as one of the judges along with other media and health authorities from government and private sector;
- working with the Center for Healthy Lifestyles on how to prepare a comprehensive press release to announce winners;
- assistance in the distribution of the press release nationwide;
- finalizing additional background materials for each month of campaign and distributing them to journalists; and
- adjusted follow-up for rest of campaign.

Nearly 40 qualifying contest entries have been received from throughout the country in all media to date with winners coming from three cities, representing newspaper and radio. Many additional journalists have prepared coverage of the diseases highlighted each month. Unfortunately there is no accurate monitoring system available in the country to determine the exact number of radio, TV and newspaper items that have appeared in the local media across the country each month.

## **Energy Campaign**

### ***Kyrgyzstan***

Continued to collaborate with Hagler Bailly and local Kyrgyz Consumer Rights NGO to design and conduct Kyrgyz Electrical campaign aimed at consumers as a part of the Selected Comprehensive Campaign Area. Activities included:

- receiving a report on the current status of research;
- analyzing all the completed surveys and distributing copies to the working committee;
- receiving an update on the current energy situation in Kyrgyzstan;
- working group resolved to include the government energy commission and direct suppliers of electricity in the process of creating the energy report; and
- agreeing to put Hagler Bailly and the Kyrgyz Consumer Rights NGO in charge of conducting the campaign. The Kyrgyzstan CB coordinator will be available for consultation but will no longer serve an active role on the committee.

## **Constituency Building Successes**

### ***Radio Call in Shows***

Between seven and eight million residents throughout Kazakhstan listen to Kazakh national radio in their homes and offices during the day. (A number that would easily double if electrical problems did not exist in many villages across the country.)

Over 90% of Kazakh people living in apartment buildings throughout the country are members of Housing Cooperatives (KCKs). The problems and concerns of these coop members are continually changing. In June our regional broadcast specialist set up a one-hour talk show on National Radio in both Kazakh and Russian languages. There were so many calls to both language programs that they scheduled additional one-hour shows on the same subject two days later. This involvement of the live radio broadcast staff at Kazakh National radio has led to discussions with our staff about subsequent programs on other subjects that Counterpart Consortium addresses within its programs.

The interest in call-in shows has stimulated the exploration of a contract to purchase the production of a regularly scheduled program where the new ideas, problems and successes of NGOs can be discussed on a regular basis.

Call in Programs on Tuberculosis and Hepatitis were conducted in both Kazakh and Russian in August and September in connection with USAID's Healthy Lifestyle campaign. Both programs received many telephone calls from throughout the nation. (The tuberculosis programs won the Health Journalism award in the campaign.) The journalists have worked with the National Housing association to identify local KCK leaders to discuss meters and anticipated problems for the winter season for their show September 2. They also featured NGOs that work with young people for the Russian version of their program in September.

### **Healthy Lifestyles Campaign**

A national comprehensive educational campaign was launched by USAID on May 18, 1998 in support of the Kazakhstan Government's Healthy Lifestyles program. USAID's efforts were coordinated by Counterpart Consortium and Abt Associates Inc. ZdravReform program in cooperation with The Kazakhstan Center for Healthy Lifestyles. The campaign brought together the talents and support from the Kazakh government, US government, private and government media, a Kazakh NGO and the private sector. This six-month project, launched with a press conference and seminar for health journalists representing broadcast and print media from all oblasts of Kazakhstan, prepared journalists through a training seminar to participate in a monthly nationwide contest for the best article or program on a given health issue. Follow-up information on the upcoming month's campaign topic was sent to journalists who attended the seminar and others who expressed interest.

Following the example and training of Counterpart Consortium on how to stage press conferences and write press releases, the Center for Healthy Lifestyles staged the press conferences and wrote press releases to announce journalist winners for the contests judged in July, August and September. They will carry out the publicity side of the journalism contest for the remainder of the six-month campaign.

## D. KAZAKHSTAN ACTIVITIES (BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE)

### OBJECTIVE 1

**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 whenever possible. (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)**

#### **NGO Target Overview**

##### ***Training and Technical Assistance Program (TTAP)***

Counterpart Kazakhstan continued its program of providing support to target NGOs. As a new feature of this program, Counterpart started to implement a newly developed TTAP for assessing an NGOs' maturity, thereby enabling them to plan and implement a capacity-building program. TTAPs were conducted for target NGOs, as well as for NGOs considered as candidates for target lists.

- TTAP was provided for 15 representatives of several consumer rights groups of Northern and Central Kazakhstan gathered in Astana by local consumer group Consumer Advocate ("B" target List).
- The Association of School Initiatives was trained on Project Design and Fundraising according to TTAP methodology (candidate for the "C" target list).
- EKOPROJECT received TTAP training (candidate to be moved from "C" to "B" target list).

##### ***Housing Associations***

In the third quarter, Counterpart continued to work with the National Housing Association (NHA) and its member groups as well as with non-member oblast/city housing associations. Counterpart program staff supported activities of the Almaty City Housing Association Training Center in a variety of ways. Highlights include attending the NHA Managing Board meeting, conducting a training on Project Design for the Board, and developing a proposal to set up a Legal/Information Center for housing cooperatives (condominiums) in the Pavlodar oblast.

##### ***Consumer Advocate (Astana)***

###### **Consumer Advocate Organizes Seminar**

Counterpart grantee Consumer Advocate organized a seminar on legal and methodological issues of consumer rights protection held in July and attended by representatives from 15 consumer rights groups in Northern and Central Kazakhstan. The seminar was extended by one day for a roundtable involving representatives of consumer rights groups and the government Antimonopoly Committee. The roundtable was facilitated by Counterpart contract trainers and Almaty and Astana Counterpart program staff. Participants of the seminar met with Mr. Radostovets, the head of Kazakhstan Antimonopoly Committee, to discuss cooperation between Kazakhstan consumer rights NGOs and the government Antimonopoly Committee. As a result, Mr. Radostovets invited consumer groups to become involved in the legislative process by reviewing legislation and possible impacts it might have on the average consumer.

Counterpart program staff also conducted a TTAP workshop for the participants of the seminar. This TTAP strayed from the original design framework, as it was the first one to be conducted for a group of representatives from several NGOs rather than a single NGO. One goal of this TTAP was to help consumer NGOs assess existing needs for setting up consumer group associations. While not every participant was interested in joining the new association, they all agreed to work together to strengthen the network of consumer protection groups in Northern and Central Kazakhstan by coordinating their efforts and jointly conducting their cooperation with the governmental Antimonopoly Committee. Based on the results of this TTAP, Counterpart has developed its strategy towards consumer groups of Northern and Central Kazakhstan.

***Association Of Non-Commercial, Non-Profit Organizations Of Kazakhstan (ANNOK)***

Counterpart continued its focus on ANNOK, a fledgling umbrella body of Kazakh NGOs established in late 1995 with support from USAID-funded American Legal Consortium. In the fall of 1997 Counterpart invited ANNOK representatives, a group of prominent and respected members of the Kazakhstan NGO community, to discuss possible ways we could help them. After several meetings with ANNOK leaders Counterpart helped them develop an action plan for the association to build its credibility within the NGO community and to become a functioning coordinating body for Kazakh NGOs. This plan included: the Association Building training for members of the ANNOK Managing Board, which was held this Spring; consultations for its leaders; and help in their work on a developing sound project proposals. This work resulted in the high profile partnership project aimed at promotion of the law drafting efforts to improve Kazakh NGO legislation submitted to Counterpart by ANNOK and ICNL.

Recently, the Astana Counterpart office provided both partners logistical support to help them organize meetings with Parliament deputies. In particular, they helped them prepare for the October Astana seminar entitled "The Collaboration of the State and NGOs in Development of a Civil Society and Strengthening of Social Stability: Legislative Foundations." Counterpart has also scheduled a TTAP and monitoring site visit to ANNOK to specify its strategy with respect to this target group.

***Center for Democracy Education "Leader" And Feminist League (Both from Almaty)***

Counterpart's strategy toward LEADER is three-fold: help them develop their partnership with LWV; assist them in strengthening their member groups through trainings and other forms of technical assistance; and provide support to the Center in its work to set up a regional-wide association of civic education groups.

In September, the first seminar conducted by two instructors from Colorado LWV took place in Almaty and had 41 participants. This seminar will serve as the model for the other seminars to be conducted throughout Kazakhstan.

***Pavlodar Social Partnership Strategy***

In response to the interest of the USAID mission to help develop social partnership strategy in this oblast, Counterpart continued its social partnership strategy in Pavlodar, an industrial city in the north of the country.

With Counterpart assistance, the Pavlodar oblast Housing Association successfully submitted their proposal to the August grant committee. With housing as a priority issue for the local governor, Counterpart hopes to use this grant to help local administration and local housing condominiums develop strategy of cooperation. Counterpart continues to work with local NGOs in developing strong grant proposals.

As key figures were unable to attend the Social Partnership Conference at Lake Issyk Kul, Counterpart staff plan to host a debriefing session to discuss events and outcomes of the conference and provide the local administration and NGO community with conference materials.

At the request of the local administration, Counterpart moved the date of its Public Information Through Mass Media training for them until the next quarter.

### ***Target NGOs Meet at the Issyk-Kul Conference***

One of the positive outcomes of the Social Partnership Conference was bringing together Central Asian target NGOs and creating an opportunity for them to discuss mutual problems, activities, and opportunities for partnerships and collaboration. One example is the considerable progress made by Central Asian civic education groups in establishing their regional association. During their meetings at the Conference they were able to set up an initiative group to focus on establishing a regional association of civic education groups.

### ***Potential New Target NGOs***

Counterpart continues to systematically revise the list of target NGOs and identify new target groups. Among potential target groups are: the Association of Artisans which is being created with the help of Counterpart partner ATA; the "Association of School Initiatives" which has already been trained by Counterpart on Project Design and Fundraising according to the TTAP methodology; and Democracy Support Center which is actively working with IFES on monitoring upcoming Kazakh elections.

### **Training of Trainers (TOT)**

A new model of TOTs on Newsletter Development was conducted and implemented in Tashkent with participation of two Counterpart Kazakhstan contract trainers. This new model was then demonstrated in Almaty for the Counterpart program staff and later utilized in a follow-up training seminar for NGOs that will begin publishing bulletins of their activities.

Counterpart Kazakhstan program staff participated in three TOTs – Social Partnership, Team Building/Conflict Resolution, and Human Resources – which were held after the Social Partnership Conference. Follow-up trainings were later organized in Almaty.

### **Trainings**

| <b>Module</b>                        | <b># of Workshops</b> | <b>Participants</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Public Education through the Media   | 1                     | 14                  |
| Strategic Planning                   | 1                     | 19                  |
| Project Design                       | 4                     | 80                  |
| Association Development              | 1                     | 17                  |
| Follow-up to Newsletter Training     | 1                     | 24                  |
| Fundraising                          | 3                     | 61                  |
| Follow-up Small Business Development | 1                     | 21                  |
| Mass Media                           | 1                     | 25                  |
| Advocacy                             | 1                     | 17                  |
| NGO and Community                    | 1                     | 22                  |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>15</b>             | <b>300</b>          |

### **Trainings Requested/Commissioned by Other Donor Organizations or NGOs**

- Counterpart program coordinators were invited by the SOROS Foundation-Kazakhstan office to conduct a Project Design training for 19 Soros program coordinators.
- Counterpart was approached by a representative of the newly established Association of English Teachers (AET) who commissioned a series of regular Counterpart trainings to be conducted next quarter. Counterpart program staff have also been invited to facilitate/moderate the AET conference scheduled for early November.
- Counterpart partner ATA approached us with a request to organize training in Fundraising for the members of organizational Committee of the Artisan Fair to be held in November.

### **Consultations**

Over the course of the past quarter, 129 NGOs and individuals received consultations by the Almaty Counterpart Consortium office.

### **Conferences, Roundtables and Seminars**

#### ***Jelly Jam Seminar***

In July Madina Taskinbaeva began planning, along with Jelly Jam creator Judy Friedman, the Jelly Jam Seminar to be held August 17–21. She invited 22 participants, two of whom were referred through the Ministry of Education, and three facilitators.

In August the Jelly Jam five-day workshop took place at the Kargalinski Sanatorium, outside Almaty. It was held with a broad level of participants: 16 teachers, selected by the Ministry of Education, from all oblasts of Kazakhstan and six representatives of local environmental and education NGOs. Jelly Jam creator Judi Friedman lead the workshop. This broad-ranged and multi-tiered environmental education program for children incited active participation from attendees.

#### ***Social Partnership***

August and September were spent in the planning and implementation phases for the regional Conference of Social Partnerships, held at Lake Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. The conference brought together the different sectors of society from each of the five Central Asian republics: non-profit, government, business, and media. Much of the Kazakhstan office's preparatory work involved inviting participants, securing corporate sponsorship, and arranging transportation for the participants from three countries — Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan — to the conference site.

## **OBJECTIVE 2**

**Catalyze the development of creative partnerships and strategic alliances between and among indigenous, U.S. and other foreign NGOs (supports USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

### **Partnerships**

- This quarter marked the start of implementation of the partnership project funded by Counterpart between Almaty-based Center for Democratic Education (LEADER), Feminist League and League of Women Voters from Colorado. In September two representatives from Colorado conducted a seminar to prepare a cadre of trainers and grassroots activists to develop the skills necessary to participate in the USAID mission election strategy.
- Much energy was also spent working with the Center for Social Adaptation and Vocational Rehabilitation of Children and Adolescents with Mental and Physical Defects (SATR) to help solve communication problems with their American partner-NGO Elwyn.
- Counterpart Astana NGO Support Center staff provided needed logistic help to ICNL and ANNOK to implement their partnership project to reform Kazakh legislation on voluntary/NGO sector.
- Almaty Counterpart office staff developed two new partnership proposals for the November Grant Committee meeting – the Almaty-based Center for Civic Education (partnership together with Civic Education Center, Los Angeles) and Special Olympics (partnership with Special Olympics International).

### **OBJECTIVE 3**

**Develop a functioning and sustainable communications and information-sharing network for Central Asian NGOs (USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

#### **Database**

During the third quarter 155 questionnaires were received from NGOs for entry into the database. 54 NGOs were updated, while 38 new NGOs were entered into the database, with requests for information from our database coming from NGO representatives, Counterpart collaborators, and individuals. Information about 36 international agencies was updated and information on all 118 Counterpart Consortium grants since 1995 was entered into the database. Four reports were sent to USAID: Counterpart training in Central Asia; Grantees in Central Asia; Grantees from Semipalatinsk; and Semipalatinsk NGOs.

### **OBJECTIVE 4**

**Assist Central Asian NGOs in accessing financial resources in country and abroad (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)**

#### **Grantmaking**

***Sheber-Aul (\$10,000-Corporate Challenge Grant with Texaco)***

Sheber-Aul is an artisan village in Almaty Oblast. This grant is for the construction of six workshops to be housed in two buildings, a tea-house/meeting room, and four pit latrines. This grant is highly leveraged. It includes major support from Texaco, which is contributing \$99,377 for construction of buildings and for an expatriate construction engineer supervisor. Sheber-Aul will also receive technical assistance from ATA (valued at \$30,276) and a Peace Corps Volunteer (two year service valued at \$26,000) who will train the NGO in retail shop and tea-house management, tourism development, NGO governance and democracy building, and institutional capacity building. Sheber-Aul will provide housing to the PCV and a construction supervisor valued at \$7,800. The focus of the grant is to improve the working conditions and capacity of Sheber-Aul, an NGO focused on the production of traditional Kazakh folk-art, develop the business potential and marketing of traditional crafts, and creation of a support network for the artisan families. It also creates a tourism focal point for visitors to Almaty and a place for artisans to sell their wares attractively.

***National Association of Consumer's Rights Protection Societies of the Republic of Kazakhstan (\$4,000)***

Established one year ago, the association has been active in conducting regional and international conferences on the protection of consumer rights, lobbying the government, and building the capacity of consumer protection societies throughout Kazakhstan. This grant will make possible eight three-day seminars in eight different regions of the republic. These seminars will help to increase the capacity of the consumer protection societies and reinforce and strengthen ties between the societies, government officials, and media. As part of the grant, eight issues of a four-page newsletter on consumer protection will be published and disseminated across Kazakhstan.

***EKOPROEKT (Ecological Project) (\$6,483)***

This grant is for the production of a twelve part television series on the work NGOs are doing in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to improve the quality of life. The programs will be educational in nature and show the population of Kazakhstan the sort of work NGOs and their vital need in society. The Kazakh national television station, "Kazakhstan-1," is donating free airtime in parcels of 15 minutes each, and in Bishkek, "ASSMAN TV" has likewise pledged airtime. The Committee saw this activity as an important and sustainable extension of the work of Counterpart's Constancy Building component.

***Children's Time (\$9,850 Corporate Challenge Grant with Chevron Munaigas)***

The project is for the creation of an information and methodology center, which will coordinate mass media activities by and for children throughout Kazakhstan. The goal of the NGO Children's Time is to expose talented children to the media, involve them in the creative process, and to create mass media outlets for talented children in different regions of Kazakhstan. Thanks to Counterpart Consortium training, Children's Time has obtained corporate sponsorship from Chevron. It will also help increase the database of mass media in Kazakhstan, CIS countries, and abroad. They plan to conduct four regional seminars in Kazakhstan on the problems of children's informational space for the leaders of children's creative unions, and publish materials for the leaders of these unions on the results of successful working groups. They also plan to broadcast two 30-minute programs on the activities of children's creative unions throughout Kazakhstan.

***Pavlodar Association of Consumer Cooperatives of Apartment Owners (\$6,200).***

This grant is for providing information and methodological assistance to apartment cooperatives and associations in Pavlodar City and Oblast on the housing and utilities issues. The objectives are to establish a center to render assistance to housing associations, organize and conduct two seminars to train KSK chairmen and KSK board members, organize a monthly informational bulletin, and organize coverage of the Information Center by the mass media. This NGO has been operating for a short time, but already has managed to obtain a pricing freeze from local energy monopolies. Housing is a target focus for Counterpart and Pavlodar is a region of special interest.

**Corporate Challenge Grant Program**

As described in detail above, two Corporate Challenge grants were awarded at the August Grant Committee meeting: Sheber-Aul (corporate grant with Texaco) and Children's Time (corporate grant with Chevron Munaigas).

In this quarter, Counterpart program staff spent much time and energy helping its partner organization, Aid to Artisans (ATA), work on a corporate challenge grant proposal with artisan NGO Sheber-Aul. Additionally, Counterpart staff helped with media relations and publicity. Through cooperation with ATA, Texaco, Peace Corps, Counterpart Consortium, and the village itself, over \$173,453 was leveraged for the construction of facilities for the artisans of the village, and housing for the foreign expert who will aid in construction and transfer of technologies.

Work is underway to create a database of corporate philanthropy objectives. It is hoped that this will help better match the needs of corporate sponsors with those of the NGO community, as well as save time when NGOs are looking for sponsorship.

**OBJECTIVE 5**

**Facilitate interaction between NGOs and all levels of government to serve community needs (USAID IR 2.1.3)**

**Almaty Resource Center (ARC)**

This past quarter, the ARC was equipped with a copier and computer with internet access. The ARC was also stocked with UNHCR literature, NGO magazines and newspapers from the US, and literature on physiology, economics and human rights. The ARC employed a part-time intern/librarian and a Coordinator, who took an inventory of the Resource Center books and compiled a list of bulletins and other periodicals available for subscription. 12 NGO representatives visited for consultations and technical support.

**Astana Counterpart NGO Support Center (ACNSC)**

This past quarter the ACNSC received 166 visits. Center Staff attended 16 seminars and organized a seminar on the Protection of Consumers' Rights. Meetings were held with the heads of the Trade-Industrial Chamber, the State Committee on Price and Anti-Monopoly Policy, the Labor Exchange, the Ministry of Information and Communication as well as the heads of the Regional Department on Migration and Demography to discuss opportunities for cooperation.

**Shimkent Counterpart NGO Support Center (SCNSC)**

SCNSC Staff organized and participated in over six seminars and roundtables on various topics. Collaboration discussions were held with the head of the Akimat Department of Work with Public Organizations, the heads of "Zhaktau" and NGO "Enbek," and Polad Kuliev, director of Soros Foundation's Information Center. Distinguished visitors to the support center include: a technical library director from a local university, Douglas Egnew of CHAP and Theresa Kennedy, director of ABA/CEELI.

SCNSC staff met with a representative of the Kabisko Company, the Kazakhstan branch of Nabisco, to discuss a series of Kabisko-sponsored seminars to take place in September and October 1998. They followed-up that meeting with a visit to the factory of Kabisko along with representatives of local NGOs, and discussed ways Kabisko and local NGOs can cooperate. SCNSC staff were invited to attend the annual celebration of Kabisko's work with Nabisco.

## E. KYRGYZSTAN ACTIVITIES (BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE)

### OBJECTIVE 1

**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 whenever possible. (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)**

#### **Training of Trainers**

Three trainings of trainers (TOTs), conducted by Marshak Foundation trainers, were held in Issyk-Kul Lake from September 16-20. TOTs covered the topics of Human Resources Management, Conflict Resolution and Team Building and development methods for Social Partnership. Follow up sessions were conducted by contract trainers in both the Human Resources Management and Conflict Resolution and Team Building modules, each with 18 NGO representatives in attendance. Contract trainers are preparing for a training on Social Partnership in October.

#### **Staff Development Training Workshop**

A seminar for Program Coordinators from all Counterpart offices in Central Asia was held on September 16-20 in Kyrgyzstan on Issyk-Kul Lake. This seminar focused on the improvement of the Training and Technical Assistance Plan (TTAP), an assessment and planning tool, for identifying needs of NGOs using a participatory approach. As part of the workshop Program Coordinators made field visits to the targeted NGOs in Karakol and provided TTAP workshops in international teams in order to test the tool and share knowledge and experience.

#### **New Modules**

##### ***Human Resources Development***

This 2-day training module is devoted to issues of effective management of NGO human resources (personnel, volunteers, etc.). The following topics are included in the module:

- Dynamics of leader's responsibilities
- Leadership in terms of specific situations
- Information and interaction
- Establishing goals, planning and the decision making process
- Feedback, motivation of personnel and volunteers

##### ***Conflict Resolution and Team Building***

The goal of this training module is to improve skills of attendees in basic methods of team building and conflict resolution. The 2-day seminar includes the following sections:

- Definition of a team, differences between a team and a working group
- Variety of team types
- 6 conditions of the team development
- Stages of the team development
- Team leader's responsibilities
- Influence of individual team members on developing a generally accepted approach, rules and norms of teamwork
- Definition of a conflict, trends in understanding conflict
- Types, reasons and model of conflict
- Methods of a conflict management
- Strategy of behavior during conflict
- Techniques of conflict management
- Effective communication, problems and communication tools

### ***Social Partnership***

Participants of this 2-day training module will raise their awareness in the understanding of social partnerships, gain skills and study new techniques for the development of social partnerships, and learn to identify and share resources to address the needs of the population.

During the seminar participants will:

- Analyze the existing perception of the community
- Define roles of NGOs in developing successful partnership
- Work out the conditions and principles of partnership
- Conduct a stakeholder analysis
- Design a method of establishing a social partnership

### **Training Workshops**

| <b>Module</b>                      | <b># of Workshops</b> | <b>NGOs</b> | <b>Participants</b> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| NGO & Community                    | 3                     | 47          | 60                  |
| Project Design                     | 1                     | 15          | 22                  |
| NGO Management                     | 1                     | 13          | 15                  |
| Strategic Planning                 | 2                     | 23          | 36                  |
| Fundraising                        | 2                     | 30          | 38                  |
| Public Education through the Media | 1                     | 13          | 19                  |
| Small Business Development         | 1                     | 14          | 19                  |
| Association Development            | 2                     | 34          | 41                  |
| Advocacy                           | 1                     | 25          | 29                  |
| Human Resource Management          | 1                     | 13          | 18                  |
| Team Building/Conflict Management  | 1                     | 15          | 18                  |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>16</b>             | <b>242</b>  | <b>315</b>          |

### **OBJECTIVE 2**

**Catalyze the development of creative partnerships and strategic alliances between and among indigenous, U.S. and other foreign NGOs (supports USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

#### **University Course**

Every day the NGO community attracts more attention of the general public including young people. More than 30 student and youth organizations focused on developing a civil society have been registered in the CC database. Under the direction of Elena Dolgova, Program Coordinator (PC), CC CTs conducted classes for third-year students at the Kyrgyz-American University (International Affairs Department) as part of the required curriculum. From the beginning of April to the end of June, the CTs volunteered their time to teach 40 students, covering all of Counterpart Consortium workshops concerning NGO development and activity. The students learned about the NGO community and its role in the period of transition and market economy. This pilot program/course most likely will be repeated at other institutions of higher education. The Bishkek Humanitarian University has expressed interest in conducting a similar course.

#### **Public Center of Ecological Information**

The Public Center of Ecological Information (PCEI) will develop its administrative and organizational capacity through a partnership grant with E-corps, part of the Beacon Project. Staff from E-corps will train the PCEI how to assess the needs of its stakeholders and how to create a client-driven strategic plan. Furthermore, PCEI will conduct seminars concerning these topics for other environmental NGOs in Kyrgyzstan. The NGO was awarded a \$14,150 partnership grant to implement the project during the period of September 98 - August 99.

### **ILIM Educational Center**

The 21st Century Schoolhouse, a US non-profit education organization, and the ILIM Educational Complex in Bishkek developed the second partnership proposal approved by the In-Country Grant Review Committee. The project will create a virtual school with classrooms and clubs for ILIM to use. Trainers for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schoolhouse will teach local teachers how to use the Internet and E-mail in their classrooms, train directors how to raise funds to maintain the virtual school, and coordinate local community action in solving environmental problems.

### **OBJECTIVE 3**

**Develop a functioning and sustainable communications and information-sharing network for Central Asian NGOs (USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

#### **Database**

The Database Manager is continuing to develop the database structure to provide better services on the Internet, and to speed up its loading and running. This past quarter he updated 209 Kyrgyz NGO questionnaires, input information on 78 projects funded by international organizations in Kyrgyzstan and added seven screen forms in Russian.

#### **Information Network**

The Information Manager continues to develop the Counterpart Information System. This past quarter he prepared a mirror version of the Web site and sent to InterNews and Kyrgyzstan Online for hosting; added two links to other Web sites, created homepages for 46 local NGOs and included them in the Web Server, connected the Web Server to an Internet leased line provided by the Soros Foundation, connected five NGOs to the Counterpart E-mail Server; and connected the Naryn Support Center to the Bishkek E-mail Server.

#### **Internet Resource Center**

In July, 56 visitors (126 visits) used the Internet Center's facilities working with E-mail, Internet access and document processing. 58% of visitors used E-mail, 19 % used Internet, 23% of visitors worked with documents. A computer-based accounting system for the Center has been established. 34 NGO representatives attended workshops on the Internet and E-mail that were conducted by the Internet Center Assistant.

#### **Documents/Publications**

Tnews issues #8 and #9 were produced and sent out. The Advocacy Manual was translated into Russian. The Newsletter Development Manual was produced in both Russian and English. Two brochures, one on Counterpart Consortium program in Central Asia and one on the training program, both in Russian and English, were updated, reformatted in MS Word for the new brochure paper and sent out to all country offices.

## OBJECTIVE 4

### Assist Central Asian NGOs in accessing financial resources in country and abroad (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)

#### **Grantmaking**

##### ***ILIM Educational Complex and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schoolhouse (\$14,810)***

A Partnership Grant with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schoolhouse, a US-based educational NGO, to incorporate ILIM Educational Complex into a virtual schoolhouse involving high school students from six countries. The grant will purchase modern equipment to provide students with a good access to the Internet and e-mail and make sure that students are able to actively participate in this program. It is anticipated that participation in the global program of contextual learning will enable Kyrgyz participants to form new standards of education and create new approaches for developing a strategy of education in the Kyrgyz republic. Since one of the project aims is to increase awareness of ILIM's work, NGO activities, environmental issues, and the importance of education reform, a small budget item was included for a public forum and conference to demonstrate the technology and the project.

##### ***Leader (\$6,225.40)***

To establish a resource center in the capital of Issyk-Kul Oblast to serve 46 registered NGOs with a total 6,556 volunteers regularly participating in the activities of their organizations. The grant will enable the resource center to finalize an NGO database, organize seven round tables, facilitate training workshops for the NGO community and produce a newsletter focused on NGO issues. The resource center will increase citizen involvement in the democratic process in a remote region in the Kyrgyz Republic, which has not been well provided with information about the NGO sector, international donor organizations, or citizens' rights and obligations.

##### ***Public Center of Ecological Information (PCEI) (\$14,150)***

A Partnership Grant with E-corps, a US-based ecological NGO funded by the Beacon Project, to enable E-Corps to consult with PCEI in sharpening its institutional focus and mission. PCEI provides ecological materials and information to universities and communities. During project implementation, E-corps will help PCEI create a team of the PCEI's stakeholders, carry out needs assessment, create a program for providing free services to ecological NGOs and work on the quality of the ecological bulletin to address the needs of the NGO community. The partnership results from a contact made by Kyrgyzstan's Field Office Director when he visited the US in May 1998. It is unique in that communication will be electronic, obviating the need for international travel. As such it presents a model for less expensive partnerships. At the same time is likely to yield a strong and sustainable connection between the two organizations as well as ongoing access to professional expertise, coordination of relationships among environmental groups, potential fundraising activities and cooperation with mass media.

##### ***Bishkek Center of Social Initiatives (\$3,415)***

To train an initiative group that will conduct seminars, roundtables and workshops targeting the needs of internal economic migrants, sharing acquired knowledge and skills with other domestic migrants. A young organization, the Center proposes to help migrants with medical or social assistance. The project is particularly appropriate to the democracy agenda because its leader was Deputy of Minister of Foreign Affairs, which will enable the project's advocacy component a strong connection to appropriate government departments. The Center also will produce 500 copies of an information newsletter addressing the needs of migrants.

***Citizen Dignity Public Union (\$4,660)***

A Corporate Challenge Grant with three Bishkek businesses (a law firm, an insurance agency, and a financial company) to open a public center for free consultations to vulnerable groups, make weekly TV/radio programs, and publish a newsletter. Taking consultations to the next step of advocacy, the organization will take complaints from clients and lobby cases before the courts. Citizen Dignity also will organize a conference to involve representatives from other legal organizations and lawyers' associations to encourage them to provide free services. The total of contributions from the local business is \$4,153. Citizen Dignity's leader was a participant in the Global/NET program.

***Bishkek Educational Fund (\$3,370.50)***

To provide an intensive training workshop to develop the program "Democratic Development of the School as an Innovative Process." The project is aimed at developing educational methods and materials for schools that enhance understanding of the democratic process. In making its decision, the grant committee was impressed with the reputation of the leader of the Education Fund and the potential impact of the project in dissemination of ideas to teachers, parents, and students in the Kyrgyz Republic. The NGO closely collaborates with governmental education departments.

***Kyrgyz Medical Association (KMA)(\$800)***

To enable KMA leader, Erkin Jamanbaev, to travel to the Salzburg Seminar Series on NGOs. While Counterpart does not often make grants for such purposes, the Committee was persuaded that participation will allow Mr. Jamanbaev, who is an important NGO leader, to increase his value as a resource to local NGOs. He has agreed on his return to organize a workshop to share his experience. Counterpart has asked Mr. Jamanbaev to give special attention to potential partnerships with external NGOs and those in Central Asia.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Grant Manager Kuban Asanov conducted monitoring of the following grantees:

- Aibek (Kerben)
- Tree of Life
- Umut Club
- Rural Children Rights Protection Bureau
- Women Support Center
- Public Union Leader
- Kyrgyz Children Fund
- Youth Environmental Movement BIOM
- Consumer's Rights Protection Association "Aikyn"
- Legal Education Center, Osh
- Association of Brokers and Dealers
- Talent Support Fund
- Foundation for Support of Legal and Economic Reform in Kyrgyzstan

**OBJECTIVE 5**

**Facilitate interaction between NGOs and all levels of government to serve community needs (USAID IR 2.1.3).**

**Satellite NGO Support Centers**

This past quarter, Support Center staff in Kyrgyzstan met with the Counterpart International Deputy Director for a two-day discussion to: review of the localization tasks; design the calendar plan for localization; analyze SC activity and clients; design the plan for second half of 1998 and procedures for conducting roundtables; and cover any budgetary issues.

The Support Centers continue to play an important role in monitoring and evaluating NGOs and their projects and in facilitating the on-going dialogue between government and third sectors. The Centers are expanding their facilitation roles by developing exchange programs between NGOs from different Oblasts.

### ***Localization meeting***

The Program Coordinator Elena Dolgova and the Contract Trainer Elena Tkacheva held a one-day workshop on designing "Training and Technical Assistance Plan" (TTAP) for target NGOs. Three Managers, three Assistants and the NGOSC Coordinator attended this workshop, which was held in Bishkek on August 8.

### ***Jalal-Abad***

- The Center provides NGOs with information (databases, printed materials), consultations on variety of issues, workshops, office facilities (copy machine, fax, E-mail, computer). During the reporting period the staff of the Center provided 55 consultations for NGOs, received 108 visitors, made 24 field visits, and facilitated a roundtable entitled "Development of Civic Initiatives in Rural Areas."
- The Center staff worked with the water project in Tash-Bulak VI. The Akim of the Bazar-Korgon Rayon promised to allocate 542,000 soms (\$28,000) for this project, additional funds would come from IOM through Counterpart. As of September 30, the local government and Counterpart have contributed 200,000 soms (\$9,000) and \$9,100 respectively.
- Center staff monitored the IOM grant-supported sewing workshop project in Kok-Jangak, which employs 32 women.

### ***Kara-Balta***

The Center provided 96 consultations for NGOs and received 149 visitors, conducted a presentation on Center services to local NGOs, ADRA, UNHCR, local government and media and attended a roundtable discussion on issues of unemployment alleviation in the villages. The Center staff also provided assistance to UNHCR funded NGOs Hireneso Muk-Suu, Jez-Oymok.

### ***Naryn***

The Center provided 57 consultations for NGOs and received 79 visitors. Center Staff participated in a UNDP sponsored seminar devoted to NGO capacity building issues as well as facilitating 3 roundtables for local NGOs, at which attendees discussed services provided by the Center, the roles and responsibilities of Board Members, and environmental issues related to the Naryn River area. The staff also took part in the debates surrounding the mid-October referendum.

## F. TAJIKISTAN ACTIVITIES (BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE)

**Security Status:** No major Government military engagements occurred during these three months. Well armed splinter groups of both the Government and United Tajik Opposition (UTO) continue to be involved in violent incidents in the Karategeen Valley, the districts around Kofarnihon (east of Dushanbe) and parts of Leninsky District. On July 20th four UNMOT officers were murdered along the road to Tawil-dara in the south drainage of the Karategeen Valley. Suspects have been arrested following Government investigations but no charges have been brought. UN and other international organizations with projects in the area of the Karategeen Valley either closed or suspended indefinitely their operations. By the end of September some international organizations were considering returning to the Karategeen Valley, but all agreed that the situation is still too risky for operations to be resumed.

By mid-September, Government and UTO were again on reasonably good terms and joint discussions resumed on some of the issues of constitutional reform. However, this constructive engagement halted when, on September 22nd, a prominent UTO leader active in the peace negotiations was assassinated. UTO and Government have announced joint collaborative efforts to find the parties responsible and bring them to justice. They also have issued joint statements regarding their intent to work together to make areas in and around Kofarnihon and Leninsky District safer, by cracking down on outlaw gangs of hooligans (renegade commanders and splinter groups).

The US Embassy announced in the last week of September that it was suspending most of its operations in Tajikistan, due only to the recent bombings of US Embassies in Africa and the lack of sufficient security provisions at its location in the Oktyabr Hotel. It was emphasized by official spokesperson that the suspension is temporary and is not based on any assessment or determination of increased threat or risk locally (in Tajikistan) to US facilities or personnel. The new Ambassador and key Embassy staff and USAID Representative will be temporarily based in Almaty and will make regular trips to Tajikistan to take care of official business.

### OBJECTIVE 1

**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 whenever possible. (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)**

#### Training

- Training activities included trainings for staff and Contract Trainers in the new modules. During the quarter over 300 people representing over 200 local NGOs received training. Despite security, geographical and flood crisis conditions and resulting logistical problems, three well-attended training workshops were conducted for local NGOs in Khurog.
- The local NGO *National Red Crescent Society* requested and received specially designed training to build their capacity in facilitating and supporting volunteers, operations management and fundraising. This specialized training was initially delivered by Contract Trainers under the aegis of Counterpart to over 150 Red Crescent employees and volunteers in Kurghan-teppe, Kulyab, Khurog, Dushanbe and Khojand. The last series of workshops for Red Crescent Society was conducted by a local NGO under contract directly with RCS and IFRC. Counterpart arranged the referral and assisted the local NGO to develop its successful tender to RSC/IFRC. The training is building the capacity of Red Crescent to conduct such trainings for themselves and affiliated organizations in the future.

- The new *Advocacy* training module was of special interest to NGOs and three workshops conducted in August and September were well attended and appreciated.

### **Consultations**

Discussions were advanced with UNDP regarding training needs of their local personnel at their Community Development Centers (CDCs) in Khatlon Oblast. Counterpart has assisted them in utilizing the services of two local NGOs with Counterpart NGO training experience in their staff development. Counterpart helped the NGOs in contracting their training services, using Counterpart modules. Contract terms have been agreed to and training is scheduled.

### **Facilitation of Workshops and Roundtables**

A group of active local NGOs in Khojand met with the Tajikistan Social Investment Fund (TASIF) and discussed the role of the NGO sector in carrying out community-based projects. The September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting was arranged by Counterpart and organized through the Khojand office as a follow-on to the Counterpart CAR Social Partnership Conference held at Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan two weeks earlier. Participants from TASIF, NGOs and Counterpart discussed TASIF's interest in achieving more sustainable micro-project impacts and possible ways to further utilize local NGOs to foster community participation in the development and implementation of micro-projects – to better serve short- and long-term community needs. Local NGOs shared information about their missions and programs and the needs that they perceive in the local area and communities. TASIF agreed to meet with them and discuss questions related to coordination of their efforts and to explore ways they can work together toward common goals. All agreed the meeting was an excellent beginning for future collaborations.

## **OBJECTIVE 2**

**Catalyze the development of creative partnerships and strategic alliances between and among indigenous, U.S. and other foreign NGOs (supports USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

### **Partnerships**

#### ***Making Democracy Work in Tajikistan***

The “Making Democracy Work” workshop for Tajikistan NGOs, organized by Counterpart Consortium and supported by USAID’s AED/Global Project, took place on September 17-18, 1998 in Almaty, Kazakstan, due to security conditions in Tajikistan. The workshop was conducted by a representative of the League of Women Voters, Colorado Chapter, Judy Davis. The League has earned great respect in the US and abroad, non-partisan and impartial approach to advancement of democracy through involvement of citizens at the grassroots level in the civic advocacy and the electoral process. The League representative was in Central Asia primarily to assist NGOs in learning the methods of involving citizens in the electoral process through holding candidate and issue forums to educate the public.

This workshop for 10 Tajikistan women’s NGOs followed the national conference “Elections and Women,” held on June 9, 1998, in Kurghan-teppa in southern Tajikistan. In June, there was serious interest expressed in how local individuals and groups could be active in the upcoming elections in Tajikistan. The group of participants was composed of Counterpart grantees, contract trainers and leaders of primarily women’s NGOs whose missions included support of women’s participation in the election process in Tajikistan.

Counterpart arranged for the participants to meet with Kazakhstan women NGOs and to visit the Almaty Women’s Information Center. Participants were also given information about the history, mission, structure, activities, and policies of the League of Women Voters, each received a copy of the “Making Democracy Work” manual, including guidelines for planning and conducting candidate and issue forums, etc.

After the workshop participants met at Counterpart Consortium's office in Dushanbe and discussed the workshop and created a plan for electoral activities. They agreed to begin by conducting "mock issues forums" twice a month in Dushanbe, with the NGOs taking turns to organize and conduct a forum. In addition to the forums, the "Making Democracy Work" workshop will be repeated at the end of October, to introduce other women's NGOs to these democracy-building activities. Media representatives will be invited to attend. A "thank you" letter will be sent to Judy Davis, the League of Women Voters/Colorado and sponsors.

#### ***Mehrona Established***

Mehrona, a new NGO set up as a coalition of three local NGOs, was established to deal with local social and medical problems – particularly those in conflict-affected areas. The mission of this NGO is to develop a network of concerned NGO leaders and health and medical service professionals in Tajikistan and other countries. They also have begun an extensive membership and fundraising drive among well-to-do citizens. The common interest of all parties in the network is social activism – to mount and support assistance programs dealing with the problems of vulnerable groups through contribution of skills, time, energy, materials (food, clothing, medical supplies & shelter) and other support. This coalition is unique in that its focus is centered on support for dealing with local problems through the resources of Tajik citizens at home and abroad. In September, they distributed clothing and blankets, at a value of over US\$1,000, to needy individuals and groups in the Kabodian area of Khatlon Oblast.

#### ***Kyrgyz NGO Harmony and Tolerance work with Tajik Ranginkamon***

A dialogue was established between the Kyrgyz NGO *Harmony and Tolerance* and the Tajikistan NGO *Ranginkamon*, regarding useful and productive exchanges, especially including technical assistance in participatory methodology, conflict resolution and tolerance education. The Kyrgyzstan NGO was developed through a joint Counterpart-UNHCR project, Conflict Transformation and Tolerance Education. The Tajikistan NGO is composed of classroom teachers and teacher trainers and is developing a proposal for a Partnership grant.

### **OBJECTIVE 3**

#### **Develop a functioning and sustainable communications and information-sharing network for Central Asian NGOs (USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

##### **Database**

We updated database of active local NGOs and supplied updated copies to international organizations in Tajikistan. For several international organizations, we assisted them in identifying and contacting selected NGOs with particular experience related to the international organizations' programming series.

##### **Constituency Building through the Media**

Abdumalik Kadirov, the Constituency Building Coordinator, and Program Coordinators prepared and conducted a "Tea Party" meeting to acquaint local journalists with area NGO activity. This well-attended and lively meeting resulted in several meetings and beginning of professional relationships between NGOs and media. They in turn have fostered an increase in coverage of NGO and community activities by both independent and State-controlled media.

#### OBJECTIVE 4

##### Assist Central Asian NGOs in accessing financial resources in-country and abroad (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)

###### **Grantmaking**

###### ***Modar (\$7,598)***

To involve high school and university students in Khatlon Oblast in developing and modeling a simulated parliament. This women's NGO will recruit and involve over 500 teachers and students from three universities in a process of study, analysis, and practice in order to stage a series of mini-parliament sessions on issues related to constitutional reform and democratization—features essential to the peace process in Tajikistan. The project is focused on an area of Tajikistan most affected by the civil conflict. It will benefit from technical assistance and support from the Majles-I-Oli (Parliament), the Ministry of Education, and the broadcast media. It is an extension of earlier efforts by Khojand State University and the Slavic University in Dushanbe. An important aspect of the project is to broadcast these mini-parliament events nation-wide and to make videos available for study in schools and universities.

###### ***NGO Coordination Center for Women's Initiatives (\$5,330)***

To train women in the production and marketing of local handicrafts in several districts in and around Kofarnihon, especially those who have been widowed by the ongoing conflict in Tajikistan and neighboring Afghanistan. This group, together with their children, has been identified by international organizations as the single most vulnerable and needy class of people in conflict-ridden Tajikistan. The Committee was especially interested in the potential for this project to develop a local resource in an area that because of risks and security problems, has been under-served by international organizations and Government.

###### ***Madad (\$3,295)***

To assist this group of academicians, semi-retired teachers, and community leaders in developing materials on recent positive changes in the Tajikistan constitution in areas such as NGO registration, criminal code, human rights and freedom of speech and access to information. The project will help teachers incorporate the materials into the social studies curriculum and team-teach them to approximately 200 in two schools in Kurgan-teppa. Significant and positive changes in the Tajik constitution, despite ongoing conflict, are not well understood by the public at large nor well integrated into educational curriculums. As part of the grant, Counterpart will assist NGO *Madad* in receiving training of trainers in Participatory Methodology for Teachers through the local NGO *Ranginkamon* (Rainbow).

###### ***Man and Nature (\$6,385)***

To help Tajik citizens assess risks, develop mitigation and emergency plans and to learn aspects of community self-help in emergency preparedness. The grant envisions a series of seminars and training of trainers who will then train the population in coping psychologically and physically in Emergency Situations. This project is appropriate to current circumstances in Tajikistan because the civil conflict has displaced a significant number of people into areas that are particularly prone to natural disasters. The project will involve collaboration with the experienced NGO *Fidokor*, the State Commission on Emergencies, the Ministry of Labor, local officials and community leaders in addressing issues of disaster preparedness and mitigation and emergency service skills development

## **OBJECTIVE 5**

### **Facilitate interaction between NGOs and all levels of government to serve community needs (USAID IR 2.1.3)**

#### ***Problem Identification Workshop Developed***

As tensions in conflict-impacted areas in Tajikistan remain high, Counterpart developed a tailor-made intervention to leverage existing programs and resources, including high levels of NGO training and facilitation skills. The result was a community level workshop in Problem Identification and Community Action in Conflict-Impacted Communities (Problem ID Workshop). It incorporates key aspects of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methodology and stimulates the formation of community-based organizations centered on common problems. Counterpart Consortium Tajikistan implemented it in Kabodian raion, Khatlon Oblast, an area severely affected by the conflict. The workshop involved returnees, local peoples and government officials. They worked together to identify the high priority problems of their communities and explored realistic ways to address those problems, utilizing primarily local resources. It is hoped that these groups will continue to meet and some may evolve into standing groups or NGOs. Counterpart is training NGO Contract Trainers to hold Problem ID workshops and perform follow-ups throughout Khatlon Oblast.

#### ***Newsletter***

Dilorom Atabayeva, Manager of the Counterpart NGO Support Center in Khojand, developed and circulated a monthly newsletter to interested NGOs, government representatives and businesses in Khojand and Leninabad Oblasts. The first two issues have been well received and appreciated.

## G. TURKMENISTAN ACTIVITIES (BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE)

### OBJECTIVE 1

**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 whenever possible. (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)**

#### **Training**

12 training sessions in four modules have been conducted this quarter by contract trainers and Counterpart staff. These sessions were attended by more than 400 people from over 25 NGOs. Sixty-four NGO representatives came from outside of Ashgabad, representing all 5 regions of the country.

The training modules NGO and Community, Project Design, NGO Management, and Advocacy have been carried out in Turkmenistan, thus far. TTAPs have also been implemented. Six additional modules (Newsletter Development, Social Partnerships, Human Resources Management, Team Building/Conflict Resolution, Association Development, and TTAP follow-up) will be implemented in the coming months. The Strategic Planning module will be implemented for the first time in December with the assistance of an Uzbekistan contract trainer.

#### **Training of Trainers (TOT)**

Eight Turkmen contract trainers are now prepared to carry out training in three new modules: Social Partnerships; Human Resource Management; and Team Building/Conflict Resolution after a three-day TOT session in Issyk-Kul Kyrgyzstan. The new modules have been incorporated into the training schedule and will be introduced in Turkmenistan by the end of the year.

#### **TTAP Initiated in Turkmenistan**

Training and Technical Assistance Plan (TTAP) activity was conducted for the first time in Turkmenistan in September. Eleven members of the NGO Formatia were the first to participate in the day-long activity. A technical assistance plan was drawn up for the next six months. One additional grantee, Nargiz, located in the Chardjew region, was also visited and a TTAP was conducted in their office. The TTAP activity was coupled with grant monitoring. In both cases, the primary concern of the NGO members was how to reach financial sustainability.

#### **First Turkmen Language Training Conducted in Dashovuz Region of Turkmenistan**

In a strategic effort to foster social partnerships in Dashovuz related to the development of a water user's association, 14 members of the Women's Union of Turkmenbashi etrap participated in the first Turkmen language "NGO and Community" training session in the country. All 14 women also hold local government posts and have been introduced to the NGO module in order to understand better the needs of NGOs in their community. The two-day training session received very positive evaluations from all participants. The Counterpart team working to develop the water user's association has been given the green light to continue training in the oblast at the community level. Women's union representatives have indicated their desire to foster partnerships between the community groups and local government in areas of health, hygiene and other vital areas related to safe drinking water.

Counterpart Consortium received great assistance from both the oblast center deputy governor in the logistical preparations for the workshop as well as from the Chief of the Culture department at the etrap level and the etrap head of the women's union. The Culture Department located an appropriate training location and hired a cook to handle the coffee breaks and lunches. In addition, the Deputy governor assisted the team in tracking down airline tickets to and from Dashovuz even though the airline agency indicated that the tickets were sold out. This activity was an encouraging sign that the local government

is supportive of Counterpart's activities and key local government functionaries are interested in learning more about NGOs in order to facilitate their growth at the community level. The Women's Union has submitted a project proposal to CC to promote the development of better women's health activities in Turkmenbashi etrap. The CC team has discussed with the women's union the need for the project design to come from the community group that will implement the project, and meetings are being set up with the health workers who are slated to carry-out the proposed implementation plan. The project team hopes to develop the proposal and submit it to the November grant review committee.

### **First Advocacy Training in Turkmenistan**

Turkmenistan contract trainer, Natalya Shabuntz along with visiting Uzbek contract trainer, Sainab Salieva conducted the first CC training session in Advocacy in late July. Though it was originally thought that the advocacy module would be too advanced for Turkmenistan, the result was an overwhelmingly positive response to the module from participants drawn from the strongest Turkmen NGOs. Evaluation questionnaires uncovered a variety of anecdotes related to advocacy activities already being carried out by Turkmen NGOs. Several participants commented during training that before completing training, many believed that "advocacy" was limited to groups with a legal focus. The trainees were truly energized by the three-day workshop and encouraged the Ashgabad office to offer the course at least every few months in order to clarify the concepts with other NGOs. In the words of one participant, "Better sooner than later...it is important for advocacy techniques to be developed early in the development process of NGOs." Most participants agreed that the module should only be taught to participants who have already participated in at least the first three introductory modules, for the greatest comprehension and impact.

### **OBJECTIVE 2**

**Catalyze the development of creative partnerships and strategic alliances between and among indigenous, U.S. and other foreign NGOs (supports USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

### **Coalition/Association Building**

#### ***Donor Roundtable/UN Focus Group on NGOs held in Counterpart Office***

This quarter, CC has hosted four donor focus group meetings designed to bring representatives of donor organizations and discuss common efforts to assist NGOs in Turkmenistan. Over 32 representatives from 15 organizations have been present at the meetings. Discussion topics included: follow-up to the first NGO conference in TK last year; strategies for information sharing about NGO activities; databases on NGOs; and resources available to NGOs from each donor organization, the government's perception of NGOs and of international organizations with NGO-focused programming. The group also completed questionnaires designed by CC and later sent out copies of the completed donor survey information. The group meets on a monthly basis.

### **Alliances/Partnerships**

- The Center for Civic Initiatives in the US has sent CC it's training manuals for "Project Citizen," an interactive civic education program which the Center hopes to introduce to the curriculum in Central Asia. CC is developing a partnership proposal which will include the Center, USIS, and at least three local NGOs who will jointly carry out the program.
- With assistance from Counterpart headquarters, the Ashgabad office continues to encourage a partnership between the Turkmen Association of Family Physicians and the Asylum Hill Family Practice Center in Hartford, Connecticut. A doctor from Asylum Hill responded to inquiries from CC's Washington DC headquarters with an enthusiastic desire to further his relationship with the Association of Family Practitioners in Ashgabad. The Turkmen NGO reacted by sending a list of goals and objectives to the US in order for the Connecticut Family Practice Center to begin strategizing on what form the partnership will take.
- Rotary International Chapter #25 in Duluth, Minnesota continues to investigate the possibility of opening a Rotary Chapter in Ashgabad. Chapter 25 was the first chapter to establish an international

Rotary affiliate, and was also the chapter that developed the first affiliate in the NIS. A link has been established between the Rotary director and a Turkmen businessman who participated in the Issyk-Kul conference in order to determine the feasibility of such a partnership.

### **Fostering Government Cooperation with NGOs**

#### ***22 Turkmen Participants Attended the Issyk-Kul Social Partnership Conference***

Although the governmental sector from Turkmenistan was not present at the conference, the event was a positive learning experience for the 22 participants who attended. The Turkmen delegation included members of NGOs, international organizations, media and local private business. As a result of the conference, a Turkmen branch of the Regional Association of Journalists for Social Partnerships was formed. In addition, attendees have already held a meeting to discuss follow-up activities within their sectoral foci. They are currently gathering materials to develop a local gallery display similar to the stand developed at the conference.

### **OBJECTIVE 3**

**Develop a functioning and sustainable communications and information-sharing network for Central Asian NGOs (USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

#### **NGO Database**

Currently, 131 NGOs have been identified, completed questionnaires and have been through at least an initial interview process at Counterpart's office. Their information has been included in the database in Ashgabad, and copies of the materials have been sent to the Bishkek office for processing into Centasianet until the questions of internet transfers of database information are ironed-out.

#### **Newspaper Articles**

This quarter, 44 items have been produced by local media related to NGO development and Counterpart's activities. 29 articles have been published in Ashgabad papers regarding NGO activities in Turkmenistan. In addition, segments describing Counterpart's activities were aired on television 15 times this quarter, including 5 Russian, 3 Turkmen and 4 English language reports. The coverage of NGOs in Turkmen press has been consistently promoted by journalists (primarily women) who are involved in NGOs and have been active participants in CC training activities.

#### **Press Conference for Women Developing Society Contest**

A Follow-up Press Conference was held at the USIS "American Center" on July 31st to announce the winners of the Women Developing Society contest. The event was attended by 11 journalists from local print media, two representatives from the national television station, and two journalists from the national Turkmen-language radio station. Following the event, a 3 minute television segment including excerpts from the conference, an interview with the Country Director and an interview with the USAID Representative was run on both Russian and Turkmen news broadcasts several times during the week. Later, the clip was translated into English and shown again on the English language news program. The journalist is currently planning to broadcast a 30-minute biographical clip on Counterpart Consortium's program in Central Asia, including showing the regional video produced by the media and constituency building unit. In addition, a Turkmen language interview with Program Coordinator, Jeren Khakhieva was broadcast on the national radio station.

## **Roundtable/Focus Group Discussions**

Two focus group meetings and one roundtable were held this quarter on the following topics:

### ***Association of Journalists for Social Partnerships***

Participants discussed how they could create a journalists' association in Turkmenistan as a result of discussion at the Social Partnership Conference. The group decided to found the Turkmen branch of the association. A charter was finalized and 7 journalists signed on as members. A follow-up meeting was also held, and the group is putting the finishing touches on their project proposal, which they will submit to the regional headquarters of the Association in Bishkek, as a submission to the November grant meeting.

### ***Follow-up to the Social Partnerships Conference with Returnees***

12 representatives from eight NGOs gathered at the CC office to discuss the results of the September conference. They developed a plan to disseminate information, shared their views of the positive and negative moments of the conference and brainstormed about their vision for the next NGO conference in Turkmenistan.

### ***Roundtable on NGO and Counterpart Programming in Chardjew Velayet***

During an informational visit to Chardjew Velayet, two program coordinators held an informal Roundtable to present Counterpart's program. The meeting was attended by 16 persons, including members of NGOs as well as interested individuals who are not formerly members of organizations. Two members of the local hakimlik had planned to attend, but were pulled away at the last minute due to the cotton harvest. The staff was very pleased by the level of interest exemplified by the members of the group. Several requests were made for Counterpart to conduct training in Chardjew.

In addition to the Roundtable, the PCs also visited four organizations working in Chardjew city. Members of these NGOs introduced the CC staff to two additional, active NGOs which were not previously known to CC. Members of those organizations have been invited to training.

## **Information/Services**

- A total of 228 visitors frequented the Resource Center this quarter for consultations, general information, e-mail use/training, and requests related to the Women's contest. The increased use of the Resource center during the quarter has been noticeable.
- A dedicated Resource Center Computer for use by NGOs and contract trainers has been set up. Two free domains were discovered and installed. In addition, a Personal Web server to access the CANGO mirror site was created and each computer in the CC office can access the site. 24 participants from 16 NGOs received training on "How to Use E-mail" by the database manager. All 24 participants were given free e-mail accounts.

#### OBJECTIVE 4

##### Assist Central Asian NGOs in accessing financial resources in-country and abroad (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)

###### **Grantmaking**

###### ***Center for Patients' Rights Advocacy. Keyik Okara (\$5,140)***

To provide medical and psychological consultations by professional staff and qualified volunteers to refugees and economic migrants in Ashgabad. The Keyik Okara Center will also assemble and disseminate information on refugee and migrants' rights and the available assistance for them as well as compile a database on these populations in Turkmenistan. This activity is particularly appropriate because as of May 1998, the Government of Turkmenistan has officially recognized the presence of refugees and economic migrants. The majority are women with children or elderly who, without residence permits or documented permanent addresses, are denied access to health facilities.

###### ***Public Laboratory Formatia (\$8,000)***

To introduce earthquake training and TOTs for teachers and students in secondary schools and to set up an Earthquake Safety Information Center for public information and training. On the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1948 earthquake which completely destroyed Ashgabad, there is a heightened awareness of the need to better inform the general public about earthquake preparedness. Secondary schools were chosen because this age group has greater potential for realizing social change by building awareness of what to do during and after an earthquake, and because they are often some of the most vulnerable in the face of natural disaster.

###### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

This quarter, three grantees have been monitored. The results of the visits have proven beneficial to the NGOs as well as the CC staff. In two cases, implementation plans have been modified to reflect unanticipated factors. In particular, the cotton harvest has stalled the group activities of the two grantees in the Charejew region. Each NGO has modified its workplan accordingly and re-scheduled activities which were originally planned for September.

###### **Grant Cancellation**

After nearly two-months of suspension, the grant awarded to the Summer English Immersion Camp (SEIC) titled: "A Few Steps to Sustainability" was cancelled after phase 1 due to lack of performance, lack of timeliness and completeness in reporting, and organizational restructuring which has modified the mission and objectives of the organization to a focus outside the area of the approved grant. Within the project scope, the NGO was able to raise over \$6000 from corporate sponsors for their summer camp activities. As a show of support for the NGOs further development, SEIC has been allowed to retain the equipment which was obtained during the first quarter of the grant

## OBJECTIVE 5

**Facilitate interaction between NGOs and all levels of government to serve community needs (USAID IR 2.1.3).**

### **Community Development in Dashovuz**

#### ***Preparatory Research***

As part of Phase One, the *consensus building and discovery period*, the project director and coordinator designed a social assessment questionnaire based on identified informational needs. An interview framework was also developed for conducting individual interviews and focus groups for gathering primary qualitative data. Ms. Orazvalieva conducted the survey in five collective farms with 20 families and local authorities including holding a focus group of newly married women. From the results, the questionnaire and interview framework were modified in order to continue the survey in October and November after the cotton harvest.

#### ***Staff Hiring***

Djema! Orazvalieva joined the Water User's Project as the Project Development Coordinator. Ms. Orazvalieva has a background in reproductive health and is the former National Coordinator of the UNFPA in Ashgabad. With her experience in project development and language skills in Russian, Turkmen and English, Ms. Orazvalieva is making a strong contribution to the start-up phase of the project.

#### ***Staff Training***

Shortly after being hired, Ms. Orazvalieva, the Project Coordinator, attended the Social Partnership Conference. The conference gave her the opportunity to learn about creative ways to work with all three sectors and to develop professional contacts with the staff of the TASIF project in Tajikistan, who are also working on community water issues. Djema! also participated in the "NGO and Community" module and learned how to design and conduct surveys and focus groups.

#### ***Community Identification***

Four potential communities have been identified to begin working within Turkmenbashi etrap. As part of the follow-up to the training of 14 members of the Women's Union, visits were made to three of their collective farms to see what activities the women are responsible for and to conduct a social survey of the general community. Over the course of the past three months, several informal groups have been identified: an irrigation group, community-based meat producers, women's groups for newly-married women, and two communities interested in building sardops (water storage tanks) with Counterpart's assistance. In the coming weeks, further meetings and training are planned with the community members to build a working foundation and identify possible projects to carry out.

## H. UZBEKISTAN ACTIVITIES (BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE)

### OBJECTIVE 1

**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 whenever possible. (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)**

#### **TTAPs**

With the restructured model for needs assessment and TTAP (Training and Technical Assistance Plan,) Counterpart Tashkent program staff conducted two sessions with "A" List target groups in July.

#### ***Tashkent Center for Public Education***

While the TCPE is a very healthy organization, this session identified some areas that are in need of work. A detailed action plan was drawn up jointly by the TCPE and Counterpart to address training in advocacy, TCPE's lack of theoretical literature on civic education, support in implementing projects, translation of written materials to Uzbek, improved work with the media and improved income generation and small business development training.

#### ***Center for Women-Leaders***

This once strong organization is now facing leadership problems as a result of the founder's recent departure to Thailand on a UN contract. To help this group survive the transition, Counterpart worked with them and identified the following areas for strengthening: training in fundraising and strategic fundraising support; systematization of information exchange with local, regional and international NGOs; re-vitalization of their dormant Board of Directors and training in governance; support for membership and volunteers numbers expansion; and partnership search support.

#### **Training of Trainers (TOT)**

- In addition to regular seminars, Counterpart Tashkent hosted a TOT and follow-up seminar on "Newsletter Development." Both Counterpart staff and participants were very pleased with the results of the TOT, which may already be seen in Issue #2 of the Counterpart Tashkent "Initsiativa" newsletter.
- Uzbekistan contractors also gathered in July for a meeting with Country Director Blair Sheridan and Deputy Director Lola Abdusalyamova. The main topic of discussion was a "code of ethics" for contractors, reflecting both Counterpart's and their own expectations from our joint work.
- Following the "Social Partnership Regional Conference" in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan's Program Coordinators and contract trainers took part in three simultaneous TOTs, in three modules (Human Resource Management, Conflict Resolution and Social Partnership.) The conference and the TOT, however, provided a wealth of new ideas, as well as practical skills to continue this worthwhile seminar.

#### **NGO Training**

Counterpart Tashkent's trainers and Program Coordinators were again kept extremely busy in this quarter, with 422 participants from 214 NGOs trained in various modules. Uzbekistan contract trainers began training in three new modules – Human Resource Management, Conflict Resolution and Social Partnership.

One highlight from the quarter was the special "NGO and the Community" seminar held jointly with Junior Achievement (a Counterpart target group,) for the regional representatives of that organization.

## **OBJECTIVE 2**

**Catalyze the development of creative partnerships and strategic alliances between and among indigenous, U.S. and other foreign NGOs (supports USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

### **Partnerships**

Working closely with the Washington office, Counterpart Tashkent developed a successful grant proposal for partnership between the Tashkent-based target group "Kridi" Club for Parents of Disabled Children and the National Parent Networking on Disabilities. The proposal calls for two trips to Tashkent by representatives of the NPND. The first trip would be for training Kridi membership in the NPND model of advocacy on behalf of the disabled, while the second trip would be a monitoring exercise to judge the absorption of the preceding training, as well as its applicability to other post-Soviet states. As an add-on to the grant, Counterpart brought Kridi Executive Director Grenada Kurochkina to Washington for direct talks with NPND on the essence of the project, scheduling and that group's in-kind contribution to the project.

## **OBJECTIVE 3**

**Develop a functioning and sustainable communications and information-sharing network for Central Asian NGOs (USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

### **Database of Donors**

Since the opening of the Counterpart Uzbekistan Information Center in Tashkent last December, Counterpart has been engaged in a constant search for the most up-to-date information on donors from all segments interested in Central Asian activities. Initial information and materials from the Washington DC office have been used daily by local NGOs, but efforts have been made by Resource Center staff to update the database to reflect new organizations and proposal guideline changes.

Together with the UNDP in Tashkent, Counterpart has engaged in a thorough exchange of information with all other donor organizations currently operating in Tashkent. As a result, we are able to offer the most up-to-date information to our NGO visitors, whether for referrals, or simply in an effort to diversify the donor base.

### **Conferences/Roundtables**

Counterpart Tashkent provided valuable assistance in coordinating and conducting roundtables for USAID visits by both the Deputy Assistant Administrator and a delegation from the Almaty mission. These roundtables provided an opportunity for the decision-makers on Capitol Hill to have a closer look at the activities of the groups funded by taxpayer dollars as well as for our NGOs to engage in a small-group dialogue with a representative of those decision-makers.

## **OBJECTIVE 4**

**Assist Central Asian NGOs in accessing financial resources in-country and abroad (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)**

### **Grantmaking**

#### ***Barkamollik Center for Development of Family Culture, Tashkent (\$12,990)***

To train families in non-violent methods of domestic conflict resolution. The Grant Committee approved this grant taking into account the potential for its broad impact on a target group of as many as 4000 women and its relevance in contemporary Uzbekistan's women's rights context. Training will focus upon methods of solving problems in a non-confrontational manner in the home. The group also will provide extensive counseling, in order to give women the strength to exit an abusive and unhealthy environment.

***Wild Nature of the Aral Region, Nukus (\$13,580)***

To raise knowledge of environmental legislation of a broad strata of Karakalpakstan's population, to foster in the public a caring attitude towards nature and the rational use of resources, and to involve the public in lobbying for recognition of Karakalpakstan as an environmentally damaged area. The project combines environmental education and awareness programs. A key element is advocacy and lobbying by first publishing a compendium of environmental laws and status of Karakalpakstan, then holding meetings, conferences, seminars, and roundtables with academics, government officials and the general public. This will involve intensive work with local government, rural leaders and other citizens of three districts significantly affected by environmental pollution and degradation. The end result will be to lobby for the recognition of Karakalpakstan as an environmental disaster area, thereby requiring the government to act towards repairing the damage.

***Perzent Center for Reproductive Health (\$6,640)***

For a series of Public Service Announcements, aimed at informing the population of Karakalpakstan of the dangers presented by the deteriorating environmental conditions of that area and how to avoid the consequences via preventative measures. The key to the Committee's approval of this grant was the extent to which local human resources will be used in researching, filming and airing the PSAs and the extent to which expertise in the production of similar campaigns will be transferred, thereby significantly increasing outreach and, consequently, the potential impact of Perzent's valuable message.

***Zakovat Public Foundation for Information Support, Tashkent. (\$10,000)***

A Corporate Challenge Grant with NTV and PressTIZH for a center to provide information to small and medium business enterprises on the taxation and customs systems of Uzbekistan. The Center will be staffed by persons who are veteran employees of the State Tax and Customs Committees and therefore well acquainted with issues vital to small business development. The Counterpart Grant Committee's was drawn to the fact that in addition to the establishment of the Center the project will see a publication campaign in two local newspapers aimed at the business community providing up to date information on customs and tax law.

**OBJECTIVE 5**

**Facilitate interaction between NGOs and all levels of government to serve community needs (USAID IR 2.1.3);**

**Nukus NGO Support Center**

The Nukus NGOSC has become the focal point of all NGO activity in Karakalpakstan, exhibited in the following statement by the Chairman of the "Golden Heritage" Association, in a recent letter to Counterpart:

*The NGO Support Centre is the place where we get the information and consultation that we need, as well as the use of the necessary equipment (copier, video camera, computer, etc.) for the various events that we hold. This goes a long way toward making the work of our organization easier. We hope that the Centre will work permanently in our Republic...*

R. Matchanov

Activities of note for this past quarter included: organizing a roundtable discussion, at the request of OSCE, to introduce local NGOs to OSCE and brainstorm possible avenues of collaboration; working with Karakalpak NGOs to discuss their involvement in the working group to develop NGO laws in Uzbekistan; advertising the services of the Nukus NGO support center through a mass mailing; and placing several articles and interviews on Counterpart Uzbekistan's activities in Karakalpakstan and the general NGO atmosphere, in the newspapers, as well as television and radio.

**Kokand NGO Support Center**

In addition to hosting and providing the logistical support for an NGO Management training seminar, the staff of the Kokand NGOSC provided daily consultations for members of local and Fergana-area NGOs. Kokand staff organized and participated in one of the five workshops held across Uzbekistan in "Social Partnership." This seminar, a joint initiative of Counterpart Tashkent and the Tashkent Center for Public Education, was held with the participation of three representatives of local government, eight businessmen and businesswomen and 12 local NGOs.

Visitors to the Kokand Support Center sought support on a broad range of issues, from legal requirements for NGO activity and training needs, to simple technical support in the form of communications or copying. In addition, the Kokand office hosted a meeting for a visiting delegation from the USAID Regional Mission (Almaty,) in which representatives of NGOs and makhallas were encouraged to explore ways to deepen their cooperation.

**Tashkent Information/Resource Center**

Tashkent Program Coordinators have been very busy in this quarter. In addition to their regular administrative tasks, they have been inundated with new grant proposals, each requiring careful in-house review and adjustment, before a decision is made on a proposal's fitness to be presented in Almaty at the Regional Review Committee. Overall, there were more than 350 visitors to the Tashkent office, most of whom were directed to the Resource Center, so that first-timers might acquaint themselves with the considerable resources available there.

## I. ISSUES AND/OR PROBLEMS

### **Kazakhstan**

Funding availabilities presume grant awards of no more than \$75,000 for Kazakhstan at each of the two remaining grant meetings in fall 1998–early 1999. The likely implication is that few or no grants, with the possible exception of Partnership, or Corporate Challenge, will be made to organizations that are not our target groups or those uniquely suited to Office of Democratic Transition Strategic Objectives.

The situation is similar with regard to the training budget. It now will be necessary to curtail training, focusing it on target activities, such as housing associations, in Shimkent and Astana where there are Support Centers, and the special Pavlodar focus area. It also will be necessary to choose carefully the training topics that are offered. This will enable Counterpart to provide a measured and strategically appropriate programming through the remainder of Phase II, rather than scaling down abruptly in the last few months.

### **Turkmenistan**

#### ***Government Crackdown on Counterpart's Activities***

As has been stated in each of the previous quarterly reports, the registration status of both Counterpart Consortium as well as that of local NGOs has been under constant scrutiny by the Turkmen government. The NGOs who have been affected the most by government interference have resolved to continue their work with Counterpart Consortium based on their firm commitment to the development of the third sector in Turkmenistan.

We have taken all the necessary steps to complete the registration process and have made arrangements for David Smith, Chief of Party, and Arlene Lear, Vice President from our DC headquarters to visit with local officials during Ms. Lear's upcoming management review.

## J. LESSONS LEARNED

### **Kazakhstan**

In an effort to provide support to NGOs outside of Almaty, Counterpart successfully opened two Support Centers in outlying regions of Kazakhstan – one in Astana, the newly established capital city, and one in Shimkent, the principal city in southern Kazakhstan. Although initially successful in dealing with the local administration, the Support Center staff was not equipped to handle the broad range of requests presented to them.

To cope with this problem, Counterpart conducted a series of site visits and invited its staff to training sessions. However, it is still felt that more work should be done to help the staff be more full-service. Principal effort to improve the capability of the NGO Support Centers will be made this October when Counterpart will conduct a specialized regional training for the Support Center personnel to assess their needs and upgrade their skills and techniques.

## **Kyrgyzstan**

The “Social Partnership for Prosperity” regional conference provided some key lessons. The first day of the conference illustrated there were not many recognized mutual interests among players in the society: public sector, private sector, NGO sector and media. That is why follow-ups of social partnership workshops will play a crucial role in developing long-term collaboration between partners. The conference demonstrated that open public dialogue with active participation of potential partners will lead to joint planning of projects and their implementation.

## **Turkmenistan**

- September marks the first year of Counterpart Consortium’s representation in Turkmenistan and the completion of seven months of fully operational programming. The most important lesson learned, thus far, is the need to respect and pay close attention to official protocol in every aspect of work. Most notably, it is important for many levels of the government to be informed of planned activities in advance.
- A large amount of attention should be placed on educating the government to better understand the role of NGOs and to work with partner, ICNL, to review existing legislation and encourage enforcement of the existing laws which do, in fact, articulate the rights of NGOs.
- Experiences over the past year have also revealed that it would be beneficial to extend Counterpart’s training modules to government level officials. This training might also be offered to quasi-governmental agencies, which are currently touted as the “official NGOs” under which all other organizations are being told to work.
- Finally, better donor collaboration is essential to improving the enabling environment for NGOs. To address the confusion that exists in the international community over what constitutes an NGO could be addressed by, as many international organizations have requested, having Counterpart modify its first three modules into a one-day mini-workshop which would be made available to staff of international organizations.

# **K. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION**

## **Kazakhstan**

### ***NGO Development Strategy Meetings***

David Smith and Marat Aimagambetov met with:

- TACIS representatives to discuss NGO legislation and issues;
- the Texas League of Women Voters, local USIS representatives and Counterpart grantees *Feminist League and Leader*;
- International City Managers Association (ICMA) on the status of Counterpart’s work with housing associations and the Pavlodar initiative;
- the Director of Soros/Kazakhstan, to discuss collaboration;
- a representative of the World Bank, to discuss possible Counterpart involvement in the World Bank funded water users program in Shimkent oblast;
- the Nursat Corporation and Mobil Oil to solicit corporate sponsorship for the Social Partnership conference at Lake Issyk-Kul; and
- Louise Druke to discuss UNHCR support to the Counterpart Astana NGO Support Center.

### ***USAID Meetings***

- In July an NGO roundtable was held in Shimkent to brief the USAID Mission Director and USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator, George Ingram, from Washington D.C. to discuss the status of NGOs in Shimkent and surrounding areas.

- In August Mr. Smith and Counterpart Uzbekistan Country Director Blair Sheridan met with the new USAID representative in Uzbekistan, Theresa Ware to discuss issues related to Counterpart's work in Uzbekistan. They also discussed the visit later in the month by USAID/Almaty's Alex Newton and Sean Roberts to explore new approaches for incorporating NGOs in Uzbekistan's development activities.
- In August regional Director David Smith traveled to Turkmenistan to monitor program activities, in particular the water user's program. He met with the Minister of Justice and other Turkmen officials concerning Counterpart's registration in Turkmenistan. He also met with Murl Baker, the new USAID representative in Turkmenistan. His visit coincided with major celebrations of the Turkmen Women's Union, which enabled him to attend several events at which he was able to meet a variety of other NGO and government officials.
- During this quarter, Counterpart continued to implement the cooperation with UNDP, particularly the UNDP NGO Resource Center, which was outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding near the end of Phase I of the NGO Support Initiative. In this connection, Counterpart serves as USAID's implementing arm in reporting periodically to the Resource Center on US-financed NGO activities.
- Through its partner ICNL, Counterpart has continued to play a central role in the working group created to draft new NGO legislation in Kazakhstan. Counterpart Astana office was particularly helpful for ICNL by effectively assisting them in preparation for the October governmental-NGO conference on issues of legislation reform of the NGO-sector related laws.

### **Kyrgyzstan**

Country Director, Erkinbek Kasybekov:

- Took part in NGO/International Organization panel organized by Peace Corps on September 28, 1998. He briefed Peace Corps volunteers about Counterpart Consortium programs and suggested cooperation through Support Offices in the regions.
- Met with Rifat Kassis, Director of Ecumenical Liaison Office of Act in Central Asia. They agreed to conduct a joint workshop in nearest future on developing and discussing localization strategies for International Agencies, which have this kind of interest.
- Took part in the workshop on bio-diversity issues on the September 7, 1998, organized by Flora and Fauna International. One of the main inputs was a suggestion to develop working materials of the conference through participation in working group discussions involving ecological NGOs in the processes of making decisions, planning, and implementation of projects under the umbrella of bio-diversity strategy.
- Met with Resident Representative of USAID CJ Rushin-Bell and Program Assistant Pearl Watts in Counterpart Consortium's office on the September 10, 1998. They briefed USAID officials about the programs, toured the office and facilities used by NGO representatives and staff.
- Met with Counterpart Program Coordinator Elena Dolgova and Liubov Skudina, Public Administration Program coordinator from Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan on the September 30, 1998. They agreed that Counterpart Consortium's CTs would provide training in cooperation with a Soros Program, "Consulting and Educational Workshops for Aiyi Akmotu", with a charge of 20% overhead costs of relevant expenses. The participants of the workshops will be the heads of village administrations for the Talas, Osh and Jalal-Abad Oblasts.

### **Tajikistan**

Successful negotiations were concluded with CADA, the international organization that provides e-mail service in Tajikistan, resulting in significant savings of USAID grant funds.

## **Turkmenistan**

- CC responded to a request for assistance from UNFPA to offer the expertise of two program coordinators for a two-day workshop designed to train women's health NGOs in developing project proposals for UNFPA small grants on reproductive health. The program is titled "healthy women, healthy children, healthy nation". UNFPA used the CC grant proposal format as a guide and the PCs facilitated small group sessions. Although participants were supposed to be exclusively from the NGO sector, most were actually representatives of government structures. The PCs worked with this unexpected constituency and proceeded to develop the idea of social partnership and explain the potential for collaboration between NGOs and government in the project development process. Follow-up workshops are being considered.
- ABA Coordination: Meetings took place with ABA Regional Director to discuss collaboration on the development of a law students' association in Turkmenistan. ABA plans to establish a presence in Turkmenistan in the Spring of 1999.
- With the arrival of CHAP to Turkmenistan and its co-location at the Counterpart offices, coordination has begun in the carrying-out of NGO assessments. In addition, the CHAP staff regularly presents the CHAP program during training sessions, resulting in useful contacts with the NGO community. Counterpart, CHAP and the Federal Emergency Management Commission in the US are collaborating with the local branch of the Red Cross/Red Crescent and local NGO grantee, Formatia on the development of a disaster relief partnership project in collaboration with the Turkmenistan Emergency Commission.
- Counterpart has assisted OSCE in identifying NGOs to participate in human rights-focused conferences in Eastern Europe. In addition, lists of NGOs and related information have been provided to OSCE representatives as it continues to explore the potential of opening an office in Ashgabad within the coming months
- UNHCR has coordinated regularly with Counterpart to identify appropriate participants for conferences, as well as by sponsoring the travel and accommodation costs of Counterpart employees to NGO conferences in the region. UNHCR staff have also participated in grant review and contest judging activities for Counterpart. It is providing support to Counterpart grantee Ceic Okara, Refugee Medical Center, and discussions have begun regarding more formal cooperation in the coming months.
- Partner organization, ICNL, has continued its contact with the Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, most notably by submitting ICNL's comments on the draft civil code revision. ICNL anticipates carrying-out an NGO law workshop early in the New Year. In the meantime, it will continue to provide consultative assistance to the Institute in the area of legal reform.
- CC has assisted UNFPA in identifying NGOs to participate in their small grant program on reproductive health. 2 program coordinators facilitated the UNFPA's workshop on project design. As a result, 8 NGOs will receive financing from UNFPA for 3-month mini-projects.

## **Uzbekistan**

### **UNDP**

- A large Counterpart delegation took part in a seminar hosted by the UNDP dedicated to issues of coordinating NGO activity.
- Counterpart Uzbekistan has planned, together with the UNDP and a German NGO, a PRA workshop to be held in November, demonstrating Counterpart's ability to sell its training skills to international organizations. The two organizations will be covering all the costs, including the trainers' salaries. Counterpart will take the administrative overhead fee from the trainers' salaries and re-invested it in the training program.

## L. LEVERAGING

### **Kazakhstan**

#### ***UNHCR Supports Astana NGO Support Center***

In September, Counterpart and UNHCR continued initial discussions outlining UNHCR financial support for the Counterpart Astana NGO Support Center of \$30,000 for the year 1999, as additional money of \$10,000 released for the year 1998. This money will go to support the UNHCR Resource Center arranged in the Counterpart NGO Center, as well as to help cover overhead costs for the Astana NGO Support Center. Through cooperation with UNHCR Counterpart tried to get additional financial and institutional opportunity to foster local NGOs in Astana and lobby for their interests.

#### ***Regional Conference on Social Partnership***

For the Regional Conference on Social Partnership held at Lake Issyk-Kul September 13-15, Counterpart obtained corporate sponsorship from local and international businesses and organizations from Kazakhstan. Support came in the form of \$2000 From Mobil Oil for transportation expenses for participants from Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan (87 people in all). Also, Food Master, Coca-Cola, and Pepsi donated food products and drinks for consumption during the bus ride and as refreshments during the conference. Bristol-Myers Squibb allowed Counterpart to use a TV/VCR for showing videos on completed social partnerships, and the World Health Organization generously offered the use of their simultaneous translation equipment. The total value of all these contributions was \$3,160.

### **Kyrgyzstan**

For the Regional Conference on Social Partnership, Counterpart Kyrgyzstan secured sponsorship in excess of \$14,000 from a variety of local and international businesses and organizations in Kyrgyzstan. Monetary support came from Aeropag, Kumtor Operating Company and DHL. In-kind contributions came from the following sources: Kyrgyzskoe Vsmorie in the form of a discount at the resort for guest and meeting rooms; office supplies from Arashan; conference logo design and banners from Continent; cellular phone service from Katel; a computer monitor for use during the conference as well as a discount on a color printer from Multimedia Salon; beverages from Coca-Cola Kyrgyzstan; and free broadcast time with VOSST TV.

### **Tajikistan**

Counterpart Tajikistan and UNHCR finalized a sub-Project Agreement on NGO Support for the remainder of 1998 in amount of US\$64,000. As the implementing partner to the agreement, Counterpart will use the UNHCR funding to open and operate NGO Resource Centers in the conflict-impacted areas in Khatlon Oblast. Additional agreements for expanded NGO Support funding for 1999 and for an NGO-conducted project in tolerance education in Khatlon Oblast were advanced.

### **Turkmenistan**

#### ***British Embassy Counterpart Consortium Alliance:***

#### ***\$14,000 in Equipment Distributed to 11 Turkmen NGOs***

As was planned in a meeting last month, the British Embassy awarded equipment to 11 NGOs that were recommended by Counterpart Consortium. All equipment has been distributed and Counterpart PCs are working with recipients to ensure that they are used according to the criteria determined by CC and the Embassy. Counterpart's technology specialist has been assisting the NGOs with installation and troubleshooting. In addition, a video camera was given to CC for the use of Turkmen NGOs on a revolving basis and was already borrowed for the filming of three activities. One energetic NGO has already submitted an example of a brochure they produced with the new equipment. CC and the British Embassy continue to have an open dialogue regarding further collaboration possibilities.

***Peace Corps Business Volunteer to be Posted in CC Ashgabad Office***

The Peace Corps has announced that it will be placing a business volunteer in Counterpart Consortium's Ashgabad office. The volunteer's primary goal is to seek to improve the business skills of NGOs and to help develop a more streamlined strategy for corporate challenge grant promotion and linkages between business and NGOs. She will also assist the Grant Manager in the financial monitoring of NGOs. It is anticipated that the volunteer will also provide consultative assistance to NGOs on issues of basic accounting, cost recovery schemes, fundraising, etc. The volunteer is scheduled to join the CC team in late December, following a three-month training program.

**Uzbekistan**

***Counterpart Uzbekistan and UNHCR Publish Initsiativa***

In addition to ongoing cooperation with NGO Support Centers, Counterpart and UNHCR are working together on the publication of the newsletter "Initsiativa." UNHCR will cover the printing costs as well as the salary of a full-time journalist seconded to Counterpart.

### III. SECTOR SPECIFIC SUPPORT: AID TO ARTISANS

#### A. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Aid to Artisans' (ATA) project component is:

1. to strengthen the institutional capacity and sustainability of Central Asian regional and local craft service NGOs and their members;
2. to promote regional harmony and economic integration by formalizing existing linkages between craft NGOs in three republics and extending these linkages to another two republics.

#### B. PROJECT IMPACTS

##### OBJECTIVE 1

**Promote democratically governed, financially sustainable, market-driven, service-oriented craft NGOs.**

After attending Counterpart training in how to write grant proposals and working with ATA on several grant applications in the last year, the Meros Center (Uzbekistan) independently leveraged \$5000 from Philip Morris in Tashkent for the purchase of a computer, fax and copy machine. Not only has Meros learned how to find funding to support its organizational activities, but the equipment it has purchased will allow it to function more efficiently.

##### OBJECTIVE 2

**Build local NGO sustainability and capacity in product design, development, and marketing of crafts.**

Kyrgyz NGO Talent Support Fund (TSF) added products to the collection that was developed with ATA, resulting in a very marketable product line which sold well during the recent New York International Gift Fair (NYIGF). TSF secured several large orders including a \$6300 order placed by a US-based national catalogue called Cuddledown. The TSF items will appear in the catalogue later this winter. The J.Peterman catalogue also expressed a strong interest in carrying several TSF items including felt rugs and pillows. ATA's marketing department is currently working with J.Peterman to answer questions about TSF's production capacity. NYIGF orders will provide TSF members with supplemental income for the winter months.

##### OBJECTIVE 3

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

After working for several months in Turkmenistan, the impact of ATA's work is already apparent. As Ms. Gozel Annamerodova, leader of the Turkmen Handcraft Center, recently stated: "Because our state institutions are being closed, many young Turkmen women are no longer able to get the education they need in order to find work. Even the schools giving practical education are closing. Many other young Turkmen women are losing their jobs as government companies close and offices are cutting staff. Because of this, young Turkmen women are becoming prostitutes as a way to earn money for themselves and their families. All Turkmen women traditionally learn embroidery, sewing, carpet weaving from an early age, but in the past no one bought these products. Women traded or bartered their products with

each other. Aid to Artisans has begun to open the way for these women to sell their products and to give many women an alternative to prostitution.”

#### **OBJECTIVE 4**

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

Leaders of ATA’s partner NGOs throughout Central Asia have begun talking among themselves about the need for creation of a regional craft association. At the July 27 advocacy meeting in Uzbekistan, members of Bukhara Artisan Center, Kokand Artisan Center, and Khiva Artisan Center agreed to establish a Coordinating Council of Craft NGOs in Uzbekistan, including the Meros Center of Samarkand. This Council is an important first step toward the creation of a regional association.

#### **OBJECTIVE 5**

**Strengthen the participation of craft NGOs in civil society.**

In early July Matluba Bazarova, Director of the Bukhara Artisan Center (Uzbekistan) took part in a national radio interview in which she highlighted the progress and successes of the BAC, and also brought to light the directive by the office of the Regional Hokim for the BAC to disband. As a result of the radio interview, radio journalists told BAC that if the Regional Hokim did not address the issue with the BAC, they would question the Hokim about the directive themselves. Matluba previously participated in Counterpart Consortium’s training on Media and Public Outreach.

### **C. ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS (BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE)**

#### **OBJECTIVE 1**

**Promote democratically governed, financially sustainable, market-driven, service-oriented craft NGOs.**

- As part of their continuing assistance to Kazak NGO Sheber Aul, ATA orchestrated a social partnership of six organizations to collaborate on a construction and technical assistance/training program with Sheber Aul to span two years. As previously reported, Texaco International made a major grant to Aid to Artisans to fund construction of an artisan center which will house workshops, a teahouse / meeting room, and a craft sales shop. The US Peace Corps, Counterpart Consortium, and USAID are joining ATA and Texaco to provide technical assistance in the form of business training, guidance in democratic governance, equipment, and other support to the Sheber Aul artisan NGO.
- Talent Support Fund (Kyrgyzstan) implemented initial activities under a Counterpart Consortium Partnership Grant with Aid to Artisans, enabling TSF to bring an Armenian consultant, Aram Sharambeyan of the Armenian Crafts Enterprise Center (ACEC), to Kyrgyzstan to work with TSF and its beneficiaries. Mr. Sharambeyan’s work with TSF is focused on organizational sustainability issues. He is working with TSF leaders to identify and implement methods that will improve both their efficiency and their members’ productivity. TSF leaders will travel to Yerevan later this year to study ACEC’s successful operations and organizational structure.
- Ms. Maya Aminova, leader of Coordination Center Women’s Initiative (Tajikistan), participated in a US-based training program offered by ATA in the management of craft-based NGOs. Ms. Aminova’s training included site visits to a variety of artisan NGOs in the US where she learned about organizational management, methods for improving services offered to members, membership building, and fundraising. Ms. Aminova also attended the New York International Gift Fair (NYIGF) to learn about techniques used in product display, merchandising, costing/pricing, and marketing, which she may use to improve the services she offers to her members.

- ATA consultant Mary Whitesides worked with partner NGOs Sheber Aul and Center Bakhyt (Kazakstan) on institutional sustainability issues such as diversifying sources of revenue, establishing retail shops and creating market-driven products. Sheber Aul will be opening a small retail shop in the coming year as part of the construction project funded by Texaco, and Center Bakhyt will also open a small shop in the Almaty College of Applied and Decorative Arts.
- ATA partner NGO in Samarkand, Meros, recently won a large competitively-bid contract exceeding \$20,000 to provide craft products for the interior design of a new French hotel being built in Tashkent. The leaders of Meros put to use their skills in proposal writing, pricing and production to obtain and negotiate the contract.

#### **OBJECTIVE 2**

**Build local NGO sustainability and capacity in product design, development, and marketing of crafts.**

- ATA consultant Mary Whitesides held workshops with ATA partner NGOs in Kazakstan and Uzbekistan on product design and development. She trained NGO leaders in how to lead similar workshops and stressed the importance of continuously developing and testing new products for the local, regional, and international markets.
- ATA consultant Lynda Grose worked with the Turkmen Handcraft Center (Turkmenistan), providing this newly formed group with their first training in product design and development. Many of the newly created products have already been tested during ATA's recent exhibition in Moscow. The products will also be sold during the upcoming November holiday craft fairs in Tashkent, Almaty, and Bishkek.

#### **OBJECTIVE 3**

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

- Coordination Center Women's Initiative (Tajikistan) continued its regular work with women in the conflict zone of Kofarnihon. CCWI products were shown in August at the New York International Gift Fair (NYIGF) where \$700 in orders were written representing additional income for these vulnerable group members. These initial samples orders are for companies, including several members of ATA's Trade Network, who expressed an interest in placing larger future orders with CCWI, thus potentially providing additional income for members of this vulnerable group.
- Aid to Artisans brought a tour group of ten people to Uzbekistan from September 4-14 (see attached tour itinerary). The group visited craft producers, including many NGO members in Margilan, Shakrisabz, Bukhara, and Tashkent. Total craft purchases made by the group exceeded \$8000. ATA local coordinator, Raisa Gareyeva, designed and coordinated the ATA tour along with ATA Board Member, Lisa Lindblad.

#### **OBJECTIVE 4**

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

- Representatives of eight of the eleven partner NGOs met in Moscow to participate jointly in an exhibition and sale of Central Asian crafts organized with assistance from ATA. The event gave artisans an opportunity to explore the Russian market; learn additional sales, marketing, and display techniques; share experiences in their respective countries with each other; and learn how crafts are made and marketed in other newly independent countries.
- Talent Support Fund (Kyrgyzstan) continued to promote crafts from ATA partner NGOs in each of the other four Central Asian Republics by hosting weekend exhibitions at the Kyrgyz Style shop in Bishkek. These events further strengthened the ties between the NGOs while earning much needed income for the members of vulnerable groups belonging to the organizations.

## OBJECTIVE 5

### Strengthen the participation of craft NGOs in civil society.

- Counterpart Consortium and ATA held a groundbreaking ceremony and press conference at the Sheber Aul village (Kazakhstan) September 2 to kick off the Texaco construction project. More than twenty media agencies attended the event and provided extensive news coverage on TV and radio in Russian and Kazak languages on both the evening and morning news. Media personnel expressed appreciation for press releases and background information provided in Russian, Kazak, and English as well as a computer disk of photographs and the program logo, which they can use to accompany their articles. Through the event, Sheber Aul also learned first hand one way organizations can work with the media to spread information about their activities to the greater public. Distinguished guests included US Ambassador to Kazakhstan, Elizabeth Jones; Regional Governor of the Almaty Region, Zamanbek Nurkadilov; and other local government officials, as well as representatives of other international organizations, and the members and residents of Sheber Aul. Following the event, Ambassador Jones remarked on the strong example this sets for other organizations, companies, and the government of Kazakhstan to join forces in partnership to strengthen individual efforts in development work.
- Coordination Center Women's Initiative (Tajikistan) was the recipient of a Counterpart grant for \$2700 to support CCWI's work to unite women of different social and ethnic groups by leading seminars in topics such as tolerance, peace settlement in the region, self-employment, and craft production. When accepting the grant, CCWI Director Maya Aminova said it was "one step forward in Counterpart's, ATA's, and CCWI's contribution to the peace process. Kofarnihon is one of the most dangerous places in Tajikistan right now, and working with crafts is a nice opportunity to bring the women of this area together positively."
- Artisan members of the Center Bakhyt, Sheber Aul, and the Women's League of Creative Initiative (Kazakhstan) held two joint advocacy meetings in July and one in August. At the urging of a Deputy Parliamentarian of the government of Kazakhstan, the groups wrote and sent a letter to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan to introduce their NGOs and raise awareness of the difficulties of artisans in Kazakhstan.
- As part of their community outreach efforts, Center Bakhyt (Kazakhstan) continued their regular assistance to the children of a local hospital in Almaty. They gathered donations of school supplies to give to the students so that they would be prepared for the start of the school year.
- Bukhara Artisan Center (Uzbekistan) led an advocacy meeting for members of their center, Kokand Artisan Center, and Khiva Artisan Center in late July. Members of the Meros Center were invited to participate but were unable to attend. Leaders of the BAC invited the Regional Hokim to attend as well as the TV and newspaper journalists. The purpose was to create positive media coverage of the BAC activities on behalf of artisans of Bukhara and the republic, to introduce the Regional Hokim to the positive results the BAC has achieved for the artisans and the Bukhara region, and to open a dialog between the BAC and the regional officials so that such directives to close the center will not be issued in the future, and so that the Regional Hokim's office will view BAC as an ally rather than a foe. Although the Regional Hokim himself was not able to attend, his Deputy did attend.

## D. PROJECT CHANGES

John Smart, ATA's Advocacy Coordinator for the NGO project in Uzbekistan, left ATA in mid-July. ATA's Local Coordinators will now manage advocacy activities in Uzbekistan. Beth Gottschling, Central Asia Projects Coordinator from ATA headquarters, replaced Mr. Smart in early August in Tashkent as manager of the LEAD project.

ATA engaged Ms. Dana Abilpeysova as a summer intern for July and August. In September, Ms. Abilpeysova began working in the Almaty office as Administrative Assistant for ATA in Central Asia.

### E. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

ATA Regional Director Margaret Bishop and ATA's Local Coordinators for Uzbekistan, Raisa Gareyeva and Genia Orlovskaya met with USAID and two representatives of UNDP in Tashkent in late July to discuss the shared knowledge of export regulations and procedures, and to look for possible routes for exporting handicrafts legally from Uzbekistan.

In both Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, ATA worked closely with the US Peace Corps, resulting in new volunteers being placed in August with Talent Support Fund and Sheber Aul, both ATA partner NGOs. Placement of these volunteers will ensure continuation and reinforcement of the training and technical assistance which was previously provided by ATA and will enhance the NGOs' future self-sustainability. As ATA moves forward with its partner NGOs on the creation of a regional craft association, these two Peace Corps Volunteers will also assist the NGOs with association development.

Ms. Gottschling met with International Executive Service Corps (IESC) Regional Director Larry Held in Tashkent to discuss the possible placement of IESC volunteers specializing in ceramics and textile production at ATA project sites in Uzbekistan.

### F. LEVERAGING

ATA secured funding from the Academy for Educational Development (AED) to place a Peace Corps Volunteer with Talent Support Fund in Kyrgyzstan. The final budget for the volunteer is estimated by AED to be approximately US\$2,800.

ATA, US Peace Corps, and the Academy for Educational Development worked together to organize a training workshop facilitated by Bukhara Artisan Center for the artisans of Turkmenistan. Bukhara Artisan Center hosted the artisans of Turkmenistan for a two-day site visit and workshop on NGO establishment and governance. ATA secured funding of approximately \$6,000 from AED to cover the costs of the event.

ATA assisted partner NGO Sheber Aul with securing additional funding for its construction project with Texaco in the form of a \$10,000 Corporate Challenge Grant from Counterpart.

In September, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) contracted ATA to conduct an export market study of Uzbek crafts (contract value approximately \$8000). ATA's European marketing consultant Karen Gibbs traveled to Uzbekistan where she worked with UNDP for ten days to meet with craft producers to assess product potential for export, give recommendations for how to pursue European market outlets, and conduct seminars on export marketing. ATA was able to capitalize on Ms. Gibbs' presence to further ATA's work with several of their partner NGOs, including the Meros Center and Bukhara Artisan Center.

#### **IV. SECTOR SPECIFIC SUPPORT: THE CITIZENS NETWORK FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

##### **A. PROJECT PURPOSE**

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

**To assist in the creation of democratic and pluralistic associations, promote the economic viability of rural communities and raise the quality of life for people of rural Kyrgyzstan.**

##### **B. PROJECT IMPACTS**

###### **OBJECTIVE 1**

**Strengthen existing and emerging private farmers' associations (PFAs) in Kyrgyzstan as self-sustaining, democratic rural NGOs through in-country technical assistance from Kyrgyz field staff, U.S. State Farm Bureau experts, and other resources of the Counterpart Consortium.**

###### **Talas Oblast PFA Formed**

On July 30, 37 farmer delegates from villages and rayons of Talas oblast attended a foundation meeting of a new oblast-level PFA. Delegates elected board members and officers at the meeting, and discussed what they would like the PFA to accomplish. The PFA's main objectives are to promote farmer interests to government and parliament, and to provide legal and business advice to farmer members. Most of the delegates to the meeting have attended CNFA seminars on various topics related to democratic governance, and the newly elected president - E. Sydykov - has worked closely with CNFA field staff over the last few months to develop a charter for the PFA and map out a strategy for creating the farmers' association. Mr. Sydykov announced that approximately 200 farmers throughout Talas have pledged to join the organization.

The oblast governor and the speaker of the oblast parliament both addressed the general meeting of farmers, which was covered by local and national print media and local TV. The governor cautioned farmers about calling for severe reductions in the land and social fund taxes, which would reduce revenues to the oblast budget and in turn exacerbate the government's difficulty in paying teachers, doctors, and pensioners. CNFA field staff continue to work with the PFA on developing an annual workplan and budget.

Twenty six founding members will contribute 500 som each for start-up capital for the PFA, and membership dues are set at 100 som per year. The PFA plans to employ three staff, a lawyer, economist, and office manager.

###### **Bazar-Korgon Rayon PFA Formed**

Seventy-three farmers in Bazar-Korgon rayon of Dzhalal-Abad oblast founded a PFA on July 25. About half of the PFA members are women, and the PFA president is a woman. Goals of the PFA are to provide information, technical and legal advice to farmer members, and identify sources of support for farmers, i.e. credit institutions, agricultural advisory services, information on legislation, etc. PFA members have attended CNFA seminars in Bazar-Korgon, and consulted with CNFA field staff and other CNFA-supported PFAs prior to establishing the organization.

Seeking support for the PFA from the local rayon administration, the PFA president convinced the rayon akim (head of local government) that the PFA, rather than compete with the rayon administration, would relieve the rayon administration by giving farmers the tools they need to help themselves.

#### **Suzak PFA Formed**

Farmers in Suzak rayon of Dzhahalal-Abad oblast have taken initial steps to form a PFA. The farmers initially were set to create an organization under the rayon administration but then turned to CNFA for assistance in forming their PFA after realizing the limitations of a farmers' organization that must answer to government.

#### **Farmers in Bazar-Korgon Village Set to Form PFA**

Workers and owners of 12 farm enterprises in Kenesh village of Bazar-Korgon rayon held a foundation meeting in August to create a village-level PFA. The PFA, headed by a woman, was formed primarily to get women to become more economically active.

#### **Talas PFA Participates in Developing Workplan for Rural Advisory and Development Service**

To ensure that agricultural training and advice suits farmer needs, the director of the national Rural Advisory and Development Service (RADS) invited representatives of the Talas PFA to assist in developing a workplan for the Talas branch of RADS. Many suggestions from the PFA were included in the workplan, and the advisory service agreed to work closely with the PFA on the conduct of training and other support activities. The advisory service is a valuable resource to the PFA, and the PFA leadership through its participation in the planning process, has laid the groundwork for invaluable technical assistance to its farmer members.

#### **Agricultural Extension Services to Continue CNFA Activities with Farmers**

In Talas and Chui oblasts, the agricultural extension offices have incorporated training and support activities that CNFA carried out over the past year into their workplans. Second, the extension service in Chui oblast plans to conduct seminars on marketing, cooperatives, and credit management for farmers based on CNFA training materials. This demonstrates that CNFA has indeed achieved the goal of making its program more sustainable by fostering strong ties with the agricultural extension service.

### **OBJECTIVE 2**

**Strengthen the capacity of rural PFAs to advocate the interests of farmers and widen their influence with local and national government.**

#### **Farmer Advocacy Results in Tighter Discipline of Highway Police**

The Ministry of Internal Affairs issued an order in late July prohibiting highway police from stopping vehicles transporting agricultural goods for any reasons other than violation of highway safety rules. At a recent CNFA-sponsored policy forum for farmers and parliamentarians, PFA representatives urged parliamentarians to crackdown on corrupt practices by highway police – such as stopping vehicles at random and fining drivers for dubious violations. Farmers included this in a list of 17 issues sent to parliament and government, that farmers would like addressed.

#### **Talas Branch of Agricultural Advisory Service**

In Talas, the extension service will facilitate a meeting with farmers to identify main problems facing farmers and advocate farmer interests to parliament and government at the national level.

## C. ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHT (BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE)

### OBJECTIVE 1

**Strengthen existing and emerging private farmers' associations (PFAs) in Kyrgyzstan as self-sustaining, democratic rural NGOs through in-country technical assistance from Kyrgyz field staff, U.S. State Farm Bureau experts, and other resources of the Counterpart Consortium.**

#### **CNFA Field Staff Conduct Seminars on Credit Management and Marketing**

CNFA field staff in Dzhahalal-Abad conducted credit management seminars for farmer groups in northern Dzhahalal-Abad oblast. E. Saatkankulov conducted seminars for 92 farmers in four villages of Ak-Siy rayon in mid-July. Participants learned about sources and terms of credit in Kyrgyzstan, assessing their own credit needs, and the main components of a business plan. Farmers find this type of seminar extremely useful because it addresses the entrepreneurial aspects of agricultural production. An average of 20 farmers attended the four seminars. Field staff will conduct credit management seminars in the southern rayons of Dzhahalal-Abad oblast during late October.

Secondly, during September, CNFA field staff conducted six seminars in villages of Talas oblast and six seminars in villages of Dzhahalal-Abad oblast on marketing. The aim of the seminar was to inform farmers about the factors that they can control in relation to marketing such as quality, reputation, appearance of their produce, and minimizing problems. Farmers also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of local and distant markets, and the preconditions necessary for targeting distant markets. An average of 15 farmers attended the seminars.

#### **Training Modules Completed**

CNFA-Bishkek has completed the following training modules: board of directors and committees, credit management, cooperative development, policy development and advocacy, development of cooperatives, and rural women and business. Also, the final version of the PFA manual has been completed, which defines a PFA, describes the organizational structure and steps in creating such an organization. All are available in English and Russian. These may be translated into Kyrgyz as well if time and budget resources allow. CNFA will distribute these to the Rural Advisory and Development Service (RADS), the Kyrgyz Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC), the Financial Company for the Support of Credit Unions under the National Bank of Kyrgyzstan (FCCU), and other organizations working with groups that have similar organizational structures to the PFAs. This allows other projects to build on CNFA's work in the future. The modules will also be made available to Counterpart International, to facilitate Counterpart's continued support to farmers' associations.

### OBJECTIVE 2

**Strengthen the capacity of rural PFAs to advocate the interests of farmers and widen their influence with local and national government.**

Planning for upcoming Parliament meetings on October 20, 1998.

### OBJECTIVE 3

**Increase participation of women farmers in the ongoing activities of PFAs.**

CNFA field staff conducted one seminar each in Talas (Bakai-Ata rayon) and Dzhahalal-Abad (Bazar-Korgon rayon). August 4-5, a total of 34 women Bazar-Korgon rayon of Dzhahalal-Abad oblast attended the two-day seminar that presented the following concepts to women: budgeting for farm and family, determining credit needs, developing business plans, and basic principles of price formation and marketing. CNFA field staff conducted the same seminar for 36 women farmers in Bakai-Ata rayon of

Talas oblast on August 13-14. The seminar attempted to draw a link between participating in the PFA and operating the farm enterprise. The seminar was directed at both women who own their own farms and women who are spouses of farmers.

#### **D. ISSUES AND/OR PROBLEMS**

The end of CNFA's activity in Kyrgyzstan is a setback for several organizations interested in making use of CNFA training capabilities. Helvetas and Mercy Corps had each expressed an interest in using CNFA trainers to work with their groups on democratic governance topics. Helvetas will likely contract the work directly with CNFA field staff after CNFA closes; the possibility of providing training for Mercy Corps has not yet been discussed.

#### **E. LESSONS LEARNED**

- For a large oblast such as Dzhahalal-Abad, CNFA should have had four field staff rather than two, and used the approach where trainers work in pairs when conducting seminars. Either this or the project should have targeted a smaller oblast, or just confined its work to Talas oblast and concentrated on reaching more villages with its activities. The approach, where trainers work in pairs, proved very successful in Talas, and the quality of the seminars appears to be much better. Because of the size of Dzhahalal-Abad oblast, it was decided in March to split up the field staff and have them conduct seminars separately in order to maximize the reach of CNFA activity. In the end however, the reduction in reach of the project may have been justified by the high quality preserved in using pairs of trainers.
- It would have been helpful to have the Farm Bureau volunteers address technical questions facing farmers, such as proper crop rotation practices, methods for reducing weed and insect infestation, techniques for improving animal health, and other such "technical questions", as well as PFA organizational ones, particularly once CNFA local staff had been trained and were themselves equipped to conduct organizational training.

#### **F. COODINATION AND COOPERATION**

During a field trip to Talas oblast in late September, CNFA invited a representative of FCCU to present information about credit unions to the Talas PFA. Through this cooperation, farmers learned of yet another source of credit available to them.

#### **G. LEVERAGING**

Expatriate advisers on the World Bank Sheep Development Project conducted a training session for CNFA field staff on marketing during September. This was in preparation for the field staff's development of a marketing seminar for farmers. Initially, CNFA had planned to invite U.S. farmers - Farm Bureau volunteers - to conduct the marketing seminars but decided to use those experts already in Kyrgyzstan to train CNFA staff.

## V. SECTOR SPECIFIC SUPPORT: THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW

### A. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the ICNL project component is:

1. **To nourish a continuing NGO-state relationship;**
2. **In coordination, cooperation, and collaboration with USAID, its contractors and grantees, to assist in the construction of a comprehensive legal and fiscal framework that will enable the NGO sector to thrive in the region and contribute in a meaningful way to the development of civil society.**

### B. PROJECT IMPACTS

#### **Kazakhstan**

##### ***Step One—Creation of a Working Group***

The legislation in Kazakhstan is in need of rapid development. As the NGO sector is growing at a high speed, outdated organizational forms and burdensome registration requirements inhibit NGOs. To address the overall issue of legislative reform, ICNL facilitated the creation of an unofficial NGO/governmental working group. The working group includes ICNL, lawyers, NGOs and parliamentarians. Through on-going meetings, the working group had strong support of NGOs, UNDP, USAID, parliamentarians and Counterpart.

##### ***Step Two—Working Group Officially Recognized***

No law can be formed without support of the legislature. The working group, although quasi-official, could not legally initiate legislation without official auspices. ICNL Regional Director, Mr. Remias and ICNL local partner, Vadim Nee went to the new capital, Astana, and met with government and NGO representatives to discuss this issue. ICNL met with Zinyada Fedotova, Senator and Chairman of the Legislative Committee on Legal Reform. It was at this point that the Senate Legislative Committee reformed the working group under official auspices. Thus far, the working group has the added participation of two senators and approval of the Senate Legislative Committee.

##### ***Step Three—Ensuring NGO Participation***

Balanced NGO legislation requires the proper participatory involvement. This can be difficult in an environment where NGOs are divided and scattered among regions. To address this issue and ensure nation-wide NGO participation, ANNOK and ICNL have created a partnership funded by Counterpart. ANNOK (Association of Non-governmental, Non-commercial Organizations of Kazakhstan) is a national NGO umbrella organization that has serious outreach potential. ANNOK is one member of the working group and will fund the active participation of dozens of NGOs. The partnership grant will allow ANNOK and ICNL to benefit from each other's resources and increase the role of NGOs in the drafting process. ANNOK will serve as a direct link to the NGO community. ICNL on the other hand, can provide the requisite expertise and serve as facilitator of the initiative.

The plan for NGO involvement includes a series of "public meetings" around the country to discuss draft legislation. ANNOK and ICNL will then collect and analyze the various comments made by NGOs and attempt to incorporate these issues into the draft law. These regional meetings will commence sometime in October or November.

#### ***Step Four--Working Group Completes a Draft Law on Charity***

Although tax benefits exist for charitable entities in Kazakhstan, charitable organizations do not exist. The legislation of Kazakhstan presently lacks a definition of charity or a legal means for an NGO to receive charitable status. Based on this, the working group drafted a base law on charities. Present at work group meetings were NDI, ABA, Lawyers Association of Shimkent, Vadim Nee, Roman Podoprigora, ANNOK, UNDP and NGO representatives. The initial draft was finalized in July. Hopefully, with governmental and NGO support, the law will be introduced next year for parliamentary consideration.

In the meantime, the working group has sent out the draft law for expert analysis to several organizations and institutes for support. Since that time two have come back: one from the General Prosecutor's Office of Kazakhstan (Institute of Legislation) and the other from the Institute of Economic Research. Both analyses generally promote the draft and recommend its consideration.

#### ***Step Five--Recognizing this NGO law Initiative at the Highest of Levels***

One problem for the NGO community in Kazakhstan is the lack of recognition at the higher levels of government. ICNL has been working with NGOs and government representatives in order to bring NGOs into the governmental forum. ICNL has partnered with ANNOK in formulating an approach to this problem, which includes a roundtable meeting in October in Astana. ICNL has met with senators and deputies regarding this event and has secured participation at the highest of levels. Thus far, the Speaker of the Lower House, the Speaker of the Senate and the Minister of Justice have confirmed their direct participation. NGOs will also actively participate in this roundtable. ICNL and ANNOK will deliver presentations and discuss the activities of NGOs in Kazakhstan. This will also be the appropriate platform to discuss legislative reform.

### **Kyrgyzstan**

#### ***Draft NGO Law in Parliament***

Like the other CIS countries, the NGO legislation of Kyrgyzstan was far from international standards. To formulate better NGO legislation, ICNL facilitated the creation of an NGO law working group which included NGO representatives and parliamentarians. This group has been meeting since March. After finalizing a suitable draft that both reflects the concerns of the NGO community and complies with international standards of NGO legislation, ICNL and the working group submitted the draft law on NGOs to the Legislative Committee of Parliament. The completion and submission of the draft symbolizes pure NGO/governmental cooperation. If the draft successfully passes the scrutiny of the Legislative Committee, it moves to the floor of Parliament for a vote.

#### ***ICNL Successfully Consolidates Competing NGO Draft Laws***

One problem in Kyrgyzstan was fragmented efforts at legislative reform and their coinciding draft laws. ICNL initially addressed this problem by combining three drafts to form one final version that incorporated the best from each draft. Still, there were two remaining versions running in opposition to the ICNL assisted draft. The Legislative Committee wanted to eliminate one of the three drafts before holding its final meeting where a final draft would be sent to the Parliament for vote.

Together with local NGO partners, ICNL met with competing drafters to discuss the situation. Our partners presented them with ICNL prepared materials (analysis of the NGO draft). After discussing the drafts and their duplicative content, the drafter of one of the competing versions agreed to support the ICNL combined draft and will withdraw his draft from consideration. This moves the combined draft on NGOs one step closer to law.

### ***NGOs Form Grassroots Lobbying Effort***

Another hurdle for the NGO Law in Kyrgyzstan is exposure and grassroots lobbying. ICNL, NDI and its partner NGOs have been working on a lobbying strategy. The NGO coalition formulated a three-tier strategy for a lobbying effort in Kyrgyzstan. The end result has been a government coalition of support for the draft law, which involves key parliamentarians.

### **Tajikistan**

#### ***ICNL Assisted Law Paves Way for Further Work***

The Tajikistan government proposed a new law on public associations. Unfortunately, the adoption of this law would not have improved the current situation concerning NGOs. In fact, the enactment of yet another ineffective and ill-founded law may have worsened the already fragile situation for NGOs and the country. In response to this, ICNL and Counterpart facilitated the creation of an NGO/governmental working group to draft progressive changes to the upcoming law.

In late Spring, the Parliament of Tajikistan adopted the new law on Public Associations. This new law contains revisions that were drafted by the ICNL/Counterpart working group (described in last report). These revisions improve the law and symbolize the success of peaceful cooperation between international organizations, government, NGOs and opposition representation. The changes reflect real, positive changes to the legislation (available from ICNL) which include the right of NGOs to engage in limited commercial activity, loosened registration requirements and better NGO/government relations.

This modest success gives ICNL the go ahead to work on subsequent legislation with the Minister of Justice and Parliament such as laws that further define various types of NGOs. Pursuant to this initial success, ICNL completed and delivered follow-up comments for the proposed Civil Code. Perhaps a week after their delivery, the Minister expressed his appreciation to ICNL for the comments and praised their quality. He, in turn, passed along the ICNL recommendations to the Civil Code working group.

### **Turkmenistan**

#### ***Turkmenistan Requests ICNL Comments to Proposed Civil Code***

The chances of true legislative reform in Turkmenistan were weak at best. Still, ICNL met with NGOs and officials from Parliament and Ministry of Justice to discuss the potential. Turkmenistan was in the process of writing a new Civil Code. Sections of this draft Civil Code pertain to the registration and regulation of NGOs. ICNL met with Vladimir Kadirov, Chairman of the Committee on Legislative Initiatives. Chairman Kadirov requested ICNL's comments and recommendations to those sections addressing NGOs. In July, ICNL delivered those comments to the Chairman and Parliament. The Chairman has expressed his thanks and compliments for these comments. If adopted, these recommendations would increase the legal capacity of NGOs. The final published version of the Civil Code will not be available until November. The Chairman also suggested the formation of a new NGO law within the next year whereby he requested ICNL assistance.

### **Uzbekistan**

#### ***Government recognizes NGO Law Reform Efforts***

The need for NGO law reform in Uzbekistan was apparent to many of those involved in NGO activity in Uzbekistan. Many international organizations and NGOs held separate initiatives. ICNL and Counterpart were successful in unifying these diversified efforts and culminating the groups into one voice. Counterpart, GTD/USAID and ICNL concluded a series of six regional seminars in Uzbekistan, "*NGOs and Their Role in the Development of Civil Society*". The last of these meetings was held in Parliament itself. The seminars brought together; local and national government leaders; NGO representatives from around the country; and the international organizations (including direct involvement from ABA, UNHCR, UNDP, Soros, World Bank).

Specifically, the unified effort led to the creation of a legislative working group. But overall, the efforts brought national focus to the NGO legislation. In August, the Parliament officially approved work on NGO legislation. And in September, President Karimov of Uzbekistan, made a national address in which he called upon the Parliament to write a new NGO law. He further stated that Uzbekistan should strive to promote overall NGO development. Thus, the working group is ready to begin actual work and expects to have a project law drafted by January.

## C. ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS (BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE)

### OBJECTIVE 1

**To assist indigenous organizations and individuals in constructing a legal framework that appropriately governs and supports the development of the NGO sector in the republics of Central Asia (USAID IR 2.1.1, IR 2.1.1.1., IR 2.1.1.2)**

#### **Technical Assistance with Drafting Laws**

##### ***Regional***

##### Providing International Examples

ICNL had the Estonian law and Yemen draft law translated through sponsorship by GTD/AED. The laws were made available in August. These laws will be used in roundtable discussions, drafting sessions and training as good NGO law models. In fact, working groups in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan already used them.

##### ***Kazakhstan***

##### ICNL Creates Official Working Group

UNDP and ICNL have successfully created a working group of NGO representatives and parliamentarians to work on legislation. The highlight of the working group's work plan is the tentative round table meeting in Astana. This meeting in Astana will be held in conjunction with Counterpart, UNDP and Association of Non-governmental/Non-commercial Organizations of Kazakhstan (ANNOK) and will provide a potent forum for NGOs and deputies to discuss upcoming reforms. This high level meeting is scheduled for October.

##### ICNL Proposes USIS Training of Drafters

ICNL also completed a proposal to USIS that would provide an educational trip to the United States for the Kazakhstan drafting group in November or December. This project would allow the drafters from Kazakhstan to receive training from US experts on NGO law drafting. ICNL Washington will be directly involved in this training and will acquaint the drafters with an international spectrum of NGO laws and norms.

##### ICNL Develops Cooperation with Local Governmental Experts

The Prime Minister's office is an important office in Kazakhstan. It not only influences the Ministry of Justice but also analyzes proposed legislation. Thus, ICNL met with the Department of Legislative Expertise of the Prime Minister's Office to discuss our initiative. Kanatbek Safinov runs this Department and agreed to meet with ICNL. There, we agreed to work together in sharing information and analyses on the project legislation concerning NGOs.

## ***Kyrgyzstan***

### **ICNL Invited to Write Analysis for Legislative Committee**

ICNL was invited to create a three-way analysis of the competing drafts for the benefit of the Kyrgyzstan Legislative Committee. The Committee's review is crucial to reform efforts and may determine the content of any new law. ICNL has finished this analysis and is currently disseminating the document to deputies and interested parties in order to assist in their legislative analysis of potential laws. ICNL plans to hold a round table for the Committee members to explain the analysis in October.

### **ICNL Contributes To Charity Draft Law in Kyrgyzstan**

ICNL is currently officially analyzing a draft law on charity in Kyrgyzstan. The draft was submitted by the Kyrgyzstan Lawyers Association and will be introduced into the Kyrgyzstan Parliament early next year. ICNL will comment on the draft and make recommended changes to the draft.

## ***Tajikistan***

### **ICNL Creates Working Group and Drafts New Law**

ICNL and Counterpart organized a conference of NGO representatives, the Ministry of justice, USAID, government and opposition representatives: "*Reform of the Non-commercial Legislation of Tajikistan in the Light of International Experience*". The concept was to discuss the pending draft law and to seek a multi-faction resolution to improve it. After two days of discussion, this broad collection of representation created a multi-representative working group that finalized revisions to the draft. These revisions to the draft were submitted to the Ministry of Justice and to parliament itself. After consultation with ICNL, the Minister of Justice spoke on these positive changes to the draft and advocated their adoption during parliamentary session.

### **ICNL Provides Comments on New Civil Code**

Despite this positive change in NGO legislation, ICNL is planning further progress in legislative reform of the non-commercial sector. This modest success gives ICNL the go ahead to work on subsequent legislation such as laws which further define various types of NGOs. Pursuant to the overall strategy, ICNL also has completed and delivered follow-up comments to proposed Civil Code. Comments were delivered to the Ministry of Justice and legislative working group.

## ***Turkmenistan***

### **ICNL Submits Amendments to Turkmenistan Civil Code**

Turkmenistan adopts a new Civil Code. ICNL comments to this proposed Civil Code were delivered to the Parliament during July. Deputy Kadirov, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, passed information to Counterpart Turkmenistan that the ICNL analysis of the project Civil Code were discussed and that they agreed with several of the points. Counterpart Country Director of Turkmenistan, Roselie Vasquez, has promised to pass along any information on the Civil Code debate and our comments as soon as she receives it.

### **ICNL in Contention to Assist on New NGO Law**

Lastly, the Turkmenistan government is forming an official list on invitees (consultants) to work on upcoming legislation. After ICNL's meeting with the Chairman of the Legislative Committee and the subsequent comments to the Civil Code, ICNL is in excellent position to make this list. The official list of consultants will be completed in October.

## ***Uzbekistan***

### **ICNL Facilitates Formation of Uzbekistan Working Group**

The National Center for Human Rights, Counterpart Consortium and ICNL re-ignited a legislative initiative in the Republic of Uzbekistan. This cooperative effort seeks to redress the current state of NGO legislation in Uzbekistan. Former attempts at reforming the soviet style legislation have been stalled and neglected. This present cooperation involves all levels of the government, NGO leadership and international organizations in a collective effort to review the potential reform of NGO legislation. Thus, in August, ICNL assisted in the creation of a working group of legislators, NGOs and international consultants to address the issue of Uzbekistan NGO legislation. This legislative initiative was discussed between the Uzbek-US Joint Commission and will hopefully blossom into solid legislative results.

### **ICNL NIS Regional Director Visits Uzbekistan to Meet with Working Group**

ICNL brought its NIS Regional Director to Uzbekistan where she met with the "working group" members. Present were Deputy Saidov, Deputy Tursunov, ABA, OSCE and other local representatives of NGOs. An itinerary was set for the group to start drafting changes. Ms. Bourjaily spoke and gave detailed analyses of various legislative potentials. ICNL also presented the group with additional materials regarding NGO legislation for comparative analysis. The group hopes to have something drafted by January.

## **Training of Government Officials**

### ***Kazakhstan***

#### **ICNL NIS Regional Director Meets with Senate Working Group to Discuss NGO Laws**

ICNL brought its CIS Regional Director, Natalia Bourjaily, from Washington DC to meet with the Kazakhstan working group and meet with members of the Senate Legislative Committee. Ms. Bourjaily discussed the avenues of legislative reform with these senators and agreed on future working group meeting. Ms. Bourjaily will return in November to assist with drafting.

### ***Turkmenistan***

#### **ICNL contributes to USIS-sponsored training of Turkmenistan officials on NGO legislation**

ICNL Washington had the opportunity to conduct intensive meetings with Turkmenistan officials regarding potential legislative reform while the officials were in Washington DC. Their trip was funded by USIS and aimed at introducing them to alternative forms of NGO legislation and its drafting. ICNL will attempt to impress upon them the need for improved NGO legislation and seek their commitment and involvement on a legislative project.

## **Providing Legal Materials**

The following materials were provided in English and Russian to all interested parties in each of the five Central Asian countries:

- The Checklist for NPO laws
- New Legislation on Non-commercial Organizations in Russia
- The Tax Treatment of Not-for-profit Organizations. A Survey of Best Practices from Around the World
- Economic Activities of Not-for-profit Organizations
- The World Bank's Handbook on Good Practices for Laws Relating to Non-commercial Organizations
- Development of Legislation, the Regulation of Non-Governmental, Non-Commercial Organizations in Central Asia: Problems and Perspectives, Vadim Nee, Director of Law and Environment Eurasia Partnership
- Role and Purpose of the NGO Sector: Reasons for a Comprehensive Law, prepared by the ICNL (general fact sheet)
- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan NGO Legislation

- ICNL recommendations to Tadjikistan Draft Law on Public Associations
- ICNL Compilation of Charitable Activities Laws and ICNL Comments to
- *Economic Activities of Non-Commercial Organizations*, prepared by the ICNL, for the Regulating Civil Society Conference in Hungary (May, 1996)
- *Development of Legislation, the Regulation of Non-Governmental, Non-Commercial Organizations in Central Asia: Problems and Perspectives*, Vadim Nee, Director of Law and Environment Eurasia Partnership
- *The Role and Purpose of the NGO Sector*, Leon Irish, President ICNL
- *Bases of regulating Activities of the Non-Commercial Sector*, Karla Simon, Executive Vice President ICNL
- *Role and Purpose of the NGO Sector: Reasons for a Comprehensive Law*, prepared by the ICNL (general fact sheet)
- ICNL commentary and proposals on Kyrgyz Tax Code
- Azerbaijan draft NGO law (ICNL assisted project)
- Book *Non-Commercial Organizations in Central Asia*, written by ICNL local partner-Kazakhstan, Vadim Nee
- *The Handbook on Good Practices for Laws Relating to Non-Governmental Organizations* Yemen draft law
- Yemen Draft Law on NGOs (drafted with assistance from ICNL)
- Estonian Law on Non-Commercial Organizations (drafted with assistance from ICNL)

## OBJECTIVE 2

**Fair, consistent, apolitical implementation of the fiscal and regulatory policies affecting NGOs throughout the region (USAID IR 2.1.1.1).**

### **Building Bridges**

#### ***Kazakhstan***

A key part of the ICNL strategy for Kazakhstan involves a meeting in Astana of key officials in the government. ANNOK and ICNL are sponsoring the event through a Counterpart grant. The conference also has the direct participation of the UNDP and the Kazakhstan working group. This will be an actual drafting session involving government representatives, the working group and NGOs. This meeting will include the Speaker of the Majilis (lower chamber) and Speaker of the Senate. The underlying goal of this meeting is to acquaint the officials with the draft and seek their active support. Both speakers and the Minister of Justice have agreed to participate in the event.

In anticipation of this high level meeting, ICNL Regional Director, Richard Remias and ICNL Local Partner, Vadim Nee, went to Astana and met with the Senate Legislative Committee Chairperson, Fedotova and Senator Kotov. They have since created a working group of parliamentarians to work on new NGO laws. ICNL and the working group have begun work on potential legislative changes in Kazakhstan.

### **Taxation**

#### ***Kazakhstan***

##### ICNL Finishes Analysis on Kazakhstan Tax Code

Currently, there are two pieces of tax legislation that relate to our draft law: the current tax code and a proposed "alternative" tax code. Although adoption of an entirely new tax code is not likely, ICNL is examining both pieces of legislation so that any draft will coincide with either variation. As for the current tax legislation, ICNL has completed and disseminated an analysis of the NGO provisions and their corresponding laws. The analysis is being used to ensure that our draft law on charities is drafted in a way that is consistent with the present tax legislation. ICNL also attended two meetings of the working group on taxation to discuss the possible inclusion of preferential tax treatment for NGOs.

## ***Uzbekistan***

### **ICNL Finishes Analysis of Uzbekistan Tax Code**

ICNL has also finished an analysis of the Uzbekistan Tax Code that will be used as a guide for potential changes to the Uzbekistan tax regime. The analysis has been disseminated to government officials and members of the working group.

## **OBJECTIVE 3**

**Increase the capacity of indigenous NGO representatives and lawyers to sustain momentum on legal reform, improving public sensitivity to the rule of law in targeted countries (USAID IR 2.1.1, IR 2.1.1.1, IR 2.1.1.2, IR 2.1.3.2)**

## **Technical Assistance**

### ***Kazakhstan***

#### **ICNL Works with Regional NGO Drafting Charity Law**

ICNL traveled to Shimkent for a drafting session held at the Southern Kazakhstan Lawyer's Association (SKAL). ICNL introduced the initiative to all the members and answered questions regarding the charity draft and their suggestions for potential changes. This group was well prepared and formulated a few proposals for the draft, which will be discussed at the next full meeting of the working group.

*See also Project Impacts and Activity Description under Objective 1.A.1*

### ***Kyrgyzstan***

#### **ICNL Assist in Lobbying Strategy**

To further enhance the possibility of an improved NGO law, the working group formulated a three-tier strategy for a lobbying effort in Kyrgyzstan. The first tier is for NGOs to lobby the Parliament. The working group members (indigenous) such as the Forum of NGOs, Interbilim, our local partner and regional NGOs, have targeted deputies for one on one meetings.

The existing resistance to the draft law is based on the deputies' unfamiliarity with the law. Therefore, the second tier would be a NDI and ICNL sponsored round table for deputies and government officials where the draft law will be discussed (October). The roundtable will be held with deputies, government officials, NGOs and other partners. The third tier rightfully depends on those deputies which participated in the working group. *See also Project Impacts and Activity Description under Objective 1.A*

### ***Tajikistan***

See Project Impacts and Activity description under Objective 1.A.

## **Training of NGOs**

### ***Regional***

#### **ICNL Contributes to International Counterpart Conference**

ICNL local partner, Vadim Nee, participated in Counterpart's regional conference, "Social Partnerships" held in Kyrgyzstan on September 12 to 14<sup>th</sup>. The conference was an international conference where representatives from all Central Asian countries participated. The conference also highlighted some of ICNL's successful work with both NGOs and government officials in the region. Mr. Nee was often called on to answer legal questions and to discuss ICNL initiatives.

#### **ICNL Creates Session for Counterpart Training**

ICNL created a new session on NGO legal environment, which will be a permanent addition to Counterpart's "NGO and Community" Training Module. These sessions will be implemented during September or October and will be country specific.

### ICNL Carries Out Training for Artisans

ICNL also held a three-hour advocacy-training workshop for Aid to Artisans. Artisan NGOs and USAID representatives were present to take part in a discussion concerning advocacy. The NGO representatives were from all over Central Asia. ICNL local partner, Vadim Nee carried out most of the training focusing on the methodology of advocacy. This was also used to demonstrate the need and use for advocacy in the pursuit of legislation. This has led to the creation of a follow up session scheduled for November for Aid to Artisans.

### ***Turkmenistan***

#### First Legislative Training for NGOs in Turkmenistan

Many NGOs in Turkmenistan are unfamiliar with the legal regulations that exist. This became very apparent in the *ICNL/UNHCR International Conference on NGO Legislation* last May. The NGOs themselves expressed the desire for training on the issue. Thus, ICNL has applied for and received support from Global Training and Development to carry out a two-day training entitled, "*The Legal and Regulatory Environment for NGOs*". This would be a roundtable that would occur in November and cover the international principles, the current Turkmenistan NGO legislation and discuss ICNL's initiative. It will give NGOs and government a chance to discuss legal reform. ICNL completed the formal request and itinerary.

### ***Uzbekistan***

#### ICNL Local Partners Assist in Education

ICNL local partner, Inna Bagdasarova, was requested to write a paper for a potential publication by The Uzbekistan National Center for Human Rights. The paper is an overview of the Public Associations Law in Uzbekistan and will be a legislative manual for lawyers, legislators and NGOs in Uzbekistan. See *Project Impacts and Activity Description under Objective 1.A*

#### **OBJECTIVE 4**

**Promote credibility of the sector to affect its capacity to provide needed services and advocacy of responsible legislative positions (USAID IR 2.1.1.2, IR 2.1.3)**

See the Project Impacts section and Objectives 1 and 2.

#### **OBJECTIVE 5**

**Assist in promoting contracting between governmental entities and NGOs for the provision of social services (USAID SO 2.3, IR 2.1.3, IR 2.1.1.2, 2.1.1.1, IR 2.1.1)**

See the Project Impacts section and Objective 1.

#### **OBJECTIVE 6**

**Assist in developing mechanisms to increase the level of self-regulation of the sector (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)**

The activities described under other Objectives of this report increase the level of self-regulation of the sector and they are directly related to this Objective. Providing general technical assistance ICNL is laying the groundwork for future specific work purposed to assist umbrella NGO organizations with the development of codes of enforceable standards established for NGO financial and operating practices. When new legislation is adopted ICNL will start more specific activities in this area.

## D. ISSUES AND/OR PROBLEMS

### **Kazakhstan**

The working group in Kazakhstan has drafted one law and will draft more. This group now has the official status that it deserves. Although ICNL and NGOs now work with parliamentarians on an official basis, the working group must affect the 1999 list of laws to include NGO legislation. To do this, ICNL and the working group must convince other members of government that the reform is necessary.

### **Kyrgyzstan**

The political situation in Kyrgyzstan is also currently unpredictable. There are currently changes in Kyrgyzstan regarding the electoral system that could impact the make-up of the Kyrgyzstan Parliament (Jogorku Kenesh). The Central Elections Committee has put forth a draft Law on Elections while simultaneously, there is a parliamentary initiative to amend the Constitution. These proposed changes would, together, create a second chamber of parliament that would consist of appointed officials. Although support for the changes is weak, they do have the potential of impacting our strategy for the Kyrgyzstan draft law if accepted.

### **Tajikistan**

The political situation in Tajikistan is fragile and still approached in a delicate manner. Seemingly, however, all sides want to agree on progress. Perhaps the ICNL and Counterpart initiative can serve as a catalyst for the peace process by involving NGOs, government officials and opposition representatives.

### **Turkmenistan**

Currently the government still views NGOs with skepticism. The legislative environment is restrictive, repressive and still based on soviet organizational forms. As such, the NGO community is essentially underground and unregistered. ICNL will attempt to bring governmental leaders and NGOs together to meet on common ground. An NGO training on legislation with governmental participation is planned for November.

### **Uzbekistan**

Government participation in promoting NGO legislation in Uzbekistan is unexpected and is cautiously approached. There is a long-standing mistrust of NGOs on the part of the government. NGOs are viewed as radical and "anti-government". This attitude is pervasive and stonewalls any efforts to change legislation. In fact, there have been recent efforts to consolidate local NGOs into national quasi-governmental NGOs. ICNL must go beyond facial cooperation and convince governmental leaders of the importance of a strong NGO sector and strong NGO legislation.

## E. LESSONS LEARNED

### **Kazakhstan**

ICNL will be focusing not only on contacts with the Ministry of Justice, but also will the other Ministries (the Ministry of Social Protection) and other officials (from the Cabinet of Ministers and the President's Administration) and especially those with the right to present the law to the Parliament (deputies) who are interested in adoption of a better NGO law.

### **Kyrgyzstan**

It has become apparent that the working group and NGO community must continue their lobbying efforts despite the recent successes.

### **Tajikistan**

Despite the unpredictable nature of the situation in Tajikistan, ICNL must continue to focus on the issue of legislative reform. To do otherwise would be a disservice to the governmental and NGO partners that ICNL has worked with.

### **Turkmenistan**

Relations with the government must be maintained on a high-level for any progress. Working with lower level officials can prove useless and counterproductive.

### **Uzbekistan**

ICNL needs to make sure that its legislative initiative is well rounded and maintains the participation of key governmental entities. Such participation will ensure a well-balanced governmental forum that is more likely to produce real results.

## **F. COODINATION AND COOPERATION**

### **US and International Organizations**

#### ***Regional***

All ICNL activities have been coordinated with the USAID regional offices.

In addition, Mr. Remias established cooperative relations with the following organizations: ABA; NDI; IRIS; Soros Foundation, Eurasia Foundation, the World Bank, TASIC, OSCE, UNHCR, UNDP.

ICNL assisted with an article on NGO legislation in Central Asia for the Institute for Soviet-American Relations (ISAR). This article should appear next month. ICNL also completed a Central Asia legislative report for the OSCE which will be used in their NGO programs.

#### ***Kazakhstan***

ICNL continues to cooperate with Soros, UNDP, UNHCR, ABA, AED/GTD, IFES, and the Almaty OMT team. The UNDP has offered their resource center as a venue for the working group meetings. ICNL has been working with ARD Checchi, as was directed by USAID, to gain an introduction into the Ministry of Justice. ICNL lectured at a Human Rights Conference sponsored by the Soros Foundation in August.

ICNL did a presentation for the monthly Ambassador's Roundtable at USAID. This presentation highlighted our work in Kazakhstan to date and the October meeting with government officials.

Mr. Remias attended a half-day meeting of the UN which was a regional donor's meeting. USAID, Counterpart, UNDP, Intrac, Soros, Dutch Embassy, Japanese Embassy and other international donor organizations were present. His presentation detailed our activities in Kazakhstan and discussed the overall legislative plan.

#### ***Kyrgyzstan***

ICNL cooperates very effectively with USAID Resident Advisor on Commercial Law, Fred Huston, who helped to develop strategy for the joint working group to finalize the NGO draft law; with Scott Kearnin, the NDI Representative; with the ABA who assisted with the successful drafting process; Howard Ockman, the Group Leader for IRIS/CA who helped ICNL to translate comments to three draft laws from Russian into English and offered his advice on how to proceed.

### ***Tajikistan***

The Counterpart/ICNL relationship has blossomed into a new NGO law.

### ***Turkmenistan***

ICNL has already established working relations with UNHCR, USAID/Booz-Allen legislative expert, ACCELS, and GTD.

### ***Uzbekistan***

Many groups and organizations have an active interest in ICNL's legislative project. In addition to working within the Counterpart Consortium, ICNL has established active cooperation with AED, UNHCR, ABA, World Bank, Eurasia, OSCE, Uzbekistan's Business Women's Association, and local NGOs. The UNHCR and OSI also held international conferences in cooperation with ICNL. ICNL has also established a relationship with Golnara Yoldasheva Deputy from the Olyi Majilis and Director, of the "Healthy Generation" NGO in Uzbekistan. This is a high profile NGO that may actively participate in the working group. *See Project Impacts and Activity Description under Objective 1.A.*

### **NGOs: ICNL has Active Cooperation or Interaction with the Following**

#### ***Kazakhstan***

Vadim Nee, ICNL's main partner and NGO Law Expert; the Shimkent Association of Attorneys, NGO umbrella organization--ANNOK (Association of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations), the Union of Attorneys of Kazakhstan, the Consumer Protection Rights Group--"Legal Initiative"; Business Women's Association, the Association of the Invalids Organizations "Zhan"; Women and Law; Legal Development of Kazakstan; Information Innovation Center; "AntiNar"; Pensioners NGO "Pokoleniye; Association of the lawyers of Kazakstan; Roman Podoprigora, Higher School of Law "Adilet".

#### ***Kyrgyzstan***

Mirgul Smanalieva, Kyrgyz lawyer, the President-Elect of the Association Attorneys of Kyrgyzstan and ICNL's local partner; Ainura Orosolieva, Chairman of the Fund of Legal Initiatives; International Center Interbilim; Institute for Regional Studies; Forum of NGOs.

#### ***Tajikistan***

Muatar Khaidarova, Chairman Society and Law ICNL's partner; Fund for Support of Civil Initiatives; Youth Ecological School; Olyi Somon; Fund of Legal Reform; Association of Intelligentsia; the Center of Youth Initiatives, Khujant, Tadjikistan.

#### ***Uzbekistan***

Inna Bagdasarova, Uzbek lawyer ( ICNL's main partner); Grenada Kurochkina, "Kridi" Club for Parents of Disabled Children; Association of Accountants and Auditors; Muborak Tashpulatova, Tashkent Center for Public Education; Center of Social Education in Nukus, Karpakalpakstan Region, Uzbekistan; Chairman of the Union of Museum Workers Bukhara, Uzbekistan; "AYOL" Center for Women and Family, Samarkand, Uzbekistan; Samarkand Business School, Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

## **Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments**

### ***Kazakhstan***

Murat Ospanov, Speaker of the Majilis; Baegeldyi, Speaker of Senate; Roza Koanshbayeva, Senator; Irak K. Elekeev, Deputy; Sabyr A. Kasimov, Deputy; Zinaida Fedotova, Chairman of Committee on Legislation and Justice-Legal Reform; Basurmanov Zhumabek, the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights with the President; Vesnin Victor Nikolaevich, the Deputy of the Lower Chamber of the Parliament; Peter P. Kolesov, the Senator (the Upper Chamber) of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Yaroslav Shevtsov, Chief Specialist of the Department of Economic Legislation of the Institute of Legislation with the Ministry of Justice; Nurlan S. Moldokhmetov, Deputy Minister, and Kubasova Irina Alexandrovna, the Director of the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Justice; Shimkent Lawyers Association.

### ***Kyrgyzstan***

Akimov Batyr Muradovich, the Head of the Legislative Department and Zukhra Taranova, the Deputy Chief of the Registration Department of the Ministry of Justice; Deputy of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament Mr. Alisher Sabirov; other deputies of the Parliament: Rahat Atchilova, Jypar Jeckhsheev (the Chairman of Legislative Committee); Pamir Shentaev, Department of Education in the Kyrgyzstan Parliament.

### ***Tajikistan***

The Minister of Justice Ismailov Shavkat Makmudovich; Davlatov Davlatali, the State Adviser of the President on Relations with the Public and National Minorities; Bakhran Ali-Zade, Director of Center of Coordination of External Assistance with the Cabinet of Ministers of Tadjikistan;

### ***Turkmenistan***

Mr. Remias met with officials from the Ministry of Justice, Chairman of Legislative Committee on Economics and Social Policy, and Chairman of the Legislative Committee.

### ***Uzbekistan***

Akmai Saidov, Deputy and Director of the Center for Human Rights of Uzbekistan; Deputy Minister of Justice Pulat Samatov; Pulat Akhmetov -Head of the Control-Analytical Department, NGO Bureau, Ministry of Justice; Akhmat Toursunov, Director, and Kasanov Mikhail Yuryevich, Deputy-Director of the Institute of Monitoring of the Current Legislation of Olyi Majilis (Parliament); Bakhodir H. Umurzakov, Minister of Social Maintenance; Sayera Rashidova, the Authorized Person for Human Rights (Ombudsman).

## **G. LEVERAGING**

Throughout this Report, the cooperative nature of ICNL's work is highlighted. ICNL plans to work on the highest possible level to achieve tangible results. This cooperative effort involves everyone from the diplomatic community, UN organizations, USAID counterparts, local and national governmental entities and moreover, the representatives of the indigenous NGOs region wide. Please refer to Section F. Coordination and Cooperation.

# REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP

ISSYK-KUL, KYRGYZSTAN

SEPTEMBER 13-15, 1998

## INTRODUCTION

Counterpart Consortium, funded by USAID, held a Conference on Social Partnerships on September 13-15, 1998 at *The Kyrgyzkoe Vzmorie* resort on Lake Issyk-Kul in the Kyrgyz Republic. The purpose of the Conference was to facilitate the development of social partnerships among government bodies, business structures, the NGO community and mass media in developing and implementing effective social actions and future policy in the Central Asian Republics. By raising the level of understanding of the usefulness of collaboration, the conference provided a venue for developing concrete plans for cooperation among diverse sectors of society.

*The conference has allowed government, businesses, media, and NGOs to meet and discuss their acute and, most importantly, common problems. This is the kind of dialogue we have not seen in Kyrgyzstan before.* C. Nogoibaeva, Kyrgyzstan

*I have had a chance to learn how much NGOs are doing in Central Asia. This conference has changed my view of NGOs.* Anonymous

In order to provide examples of on-going collaboration to add to the framework for the discussion, the participants themselves created an exhibition space, which also served as a gathering place for participants throughout the conference. The "Gallery Walk" included country-specific displays, videos, newsletters, books, Internet Web Sites recorded on CD-ROMs, and other information pertinent to the conference's theme.

It provided a valuable tangible demonstration of contributions already made by collaborative projects.

The opening ceremony included screening of documentary film about past and current social partnerships produced by Counterpart Consortium's Constituency Building Division. This film-in-progress will be expanded to include projects catalyzed at the conference and will be aired throughout the region.

A highlight of the opening day of the conference was a speech by the State Secretary of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ishenbay Abdurazakov. Participation by such a high level government official lent credibility to the involvement of government in social partnership initiatives and demonstrated the interest of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in the NGO community's role in participatory governance as well as in supporting projects funded through USAID. The State Secretary's comments specifically mentioned the importance of social partnerships and the interest of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to work with NGOs.

## PARTICIPANTS

Out of the total of over 150 participants and guests, the conference included members from all sectors, plus the media.

- **65 NGO representatives**, including 46 Counterpart Contract Trainers and 10 NGO Support Center staffers;
- **15 representatives of Governments of Central Asian Republics** from National, Oblast and Rayon level, including the Secretary of the President's Apparatus from the Kyrgyz Republic, the Deputy Minister of Social Protection from Kazakhstan, the Head of the Registration Department of the Justice Ministry from Tajikistan, and the Chairman of the Karakalpakstan Parliament from Uzbekistan;
- **8 business representatives**, including representatives from conference's sponsors Areopag and DHL;
- **10 journalists** from a variety of media outlets, covering all the regions' languages; and
- **18 Counterpart Consortium program personnel**, acting as facilitators.



■ NGO Reps  
■ Gov't Reps  
■ Bus. Reps  
■ Journalists  
■ CC Staff



Conference is organized by Counterpart Consortium with support by the U.S. Agency for International Development



## SPONSORS

The following sponsors contributed to the conference in many different forms, totaling over \$18,000, approximately 40% of the total budget.

- Kyrgyzskoe Vsmorie, Kyrgyzstan (\$8,000 in discount at the resort for rooms and conference hall)
- Mobil Oil, Kazakhstan (\$2,000)
- Areopag, Kyrgyzstan (\$2,000)
- Arashan, Kyrgyzstan (\$1,100 in office supplies)
- Kumtor Operating Company, Kyrgyzstan (\$1,000)
- World Health Organization, Kazakhstan Office (\$600 for rental of simultaneous translation equipment)
- Continent, Kyrgyzstan (\$850 in services: developing conference logo, banners, etc.)
- Katel, Kyrgyzstan (\$175 for cellular phone use during the conference)
- DHL, Kyrgyzstan (\$500)
- Coca-Cola, Kazakhstan (\$215 in beverages)
- Coca-Cola, Kyrgyzstan (\$200 in beverages)
- Multimedia Salon, Kyrgyzstan (\$400 for computer monitor rental during the conference and discount on color printer)
- Pepsi, Kazakhstan (\$140 in beverages)
- Food Master, Kazakhstan (\$60 in yogurt)
- Bristol-Myers Squibb, Kazakhstan (TV/VCR for conference use)
- VOSST TV, Kyrgyzstan (Free broadcast time)

## PROGRAM

### Day One: Priorities and Strategies for Social Partnership

Participants were divided up into small working groups by sector and discussed problems and barriers to the creation of social partnerships, including:

- Lack of supportive NGO legislation
- Unfavorable tax legislation not encouraging of corporate and individual charitable giving
- Poor understanding of NGOs on the part of government and business.
- Government control and pressure on the media
- Stereotypes held by all sectors about each other (e.g., NGOs are not specialists, businesses are selfish, journalists distort information)

Through presentation of finding by each group in a plenary session, the sectors acquired a better understanding of others' expectations.

*I finally understand what  
Social partnership is all about.  
E. Vinogradova, Kazakhstan*

Within these expectations, assumptions about each sector's resources and potential roles in social partnerships became evident. For example, NGOs had a preconceived notion that businesses would willingly provide specialized skills (e.g., marketing) on a pro bono basis. The business sector challenged this assumption, saying that it is not in their interest to provide skills for free. The NGO and business sectors assumed that the government would be willing to provide tax breaks to stimulate charitable contributions, which are seen as necessary to promote social partnerships. However, they were not aware of the government sector's concerns that tax breaks could lead to more corruption. Another assumption was that businesses tend to think that just providing money to NGOs (or, in another example, governments providing free office space) constituted a "partnership." The NGO sector challenged this limited view, believing that the government and business sectors need to play a larger, more programmatic role in partnerships.

## Day Two: Resources for Implementation of Social Programs and Projects

The working groups analyzed resources necessary for implementing projects on three levels: 1) their own available resources, 2) resources needed from other working groups or sectors; and 3) resources that they could offer to other groups/sectors. The participants' main conclusion from the second day was the need to create mechanisms for developing "expertise" for all sectors. For example, the media training NGOs to more effectively publicize their programs, or NGOs helping business develop a more programmatic approach to solving social problems.

Government officials expressed the desire to create a draft Law on Social *Zakaz* (Decree). This concept is based on recently passed Russian legislation authorizing government the power to "decree" or delegate some of its social policy mandates to NGOs for implementation or enforcement. This idea played a factor in every project designed by the working groups on the third day.

## Day Three: Social Partnership Projects

Participants divided up into new working groups to develop concrete plans for creating social partnerships. The topics for the working groups were based on the priorities identified in previous sessions and included: Improvement of Legal Situation, Promotion of Social Partnerships Through the Media, Development of Social Partnership Systems, Civic Education, Poverty Alleviation, Small Business Development, Coalition Development, Democratic Elections and Ecology.

These working groups developed social partnership projects, including outlines, work plans, and monitoring mechanisms. Highlights from the third-day's presentations of social partnership projects follow.

*Social partnerships are critical for democratic society building. Projects should not be developed or implemented in isolation; rather, all sectors of the society should participate in this process for the citizens' prosperity in the broad sense of the word. M. Tairov, Kyrgyzstan NGO*

### 1. Improvement of Legal Situation

This working group, having representatives from all three sectors, created a very detailed project to improve the legal environment for social partnership development. The project, entitled "Improvement of Legal Environment for Social Partnership Development," aims to:

- encourage charitable activities of local and international businesses;
- foster NGO activities;
- cut the costs the government currently incurs in the social field;
- appreciate the role of NGOs;
- emphasize the importance of adoption of relevant legislation; and
- stop all gaps in the legislation of countries striving to develop social partnerships.

The following legislation needs to be either drafted or amended, depending on the legal environment of each particular country striving to establish and adequately regulate activities of the NGOs and their interaction with other social sectors:

- Law on Public Organizations;
- Law on Charities;
- Law on Social *Zakaz* (Decree), i.e., when the government delegates some of its powers to NGOs to implement and/or enforce its social policy;
- Law on Non-Profit Organizations; and
- Tax legislation.

The working group defined specific steps (e.g., creating a regional task force), setting up terms of implementation of the project, assigning responsible persons for tasks, and even developed a monitoring plan.

## 2. *Promotion of Social Partnerships Through the Media*

This group came to the conclusion that the best way to develop a specific project aimed at social partnership promotion and development would be to create a Central Asian Association of Journalists Covering Social Partnership Issues (CAAJSP). The group turned into a founders' meeting, creating a mission statement and logo, holding elections and developing a regional program. After deciding to headquarter the NGO in Bishkek, the CAAJSP laid out its agenda, including:

- producing and promoting publications/videos on social partnership-related issues in a regional Central Asian periodical in several languages of the region, forming a core group of journalists to specifically cover these issues
- ensuring proper monitoring and feedback, carry out sociological surveys on social partnerships
- carrying out activities to integrate the three sectors
- providing training and re-training seminars, starting a school of young journalists
- cooperating with education-related NGOs in covering social partnership issues
- attracting, utilizing, and integrating resources in the region
- forming a Board of Directors with participation of government agencies and businesses
- holding conferences of the CAAJSP regularly

## 3. *Development of Social Partnerships Systems*

This group wrote two projects, "Training in Social Partnerships" and "Creating and Developing an Informational Network," to help sustain the momentum and activity of the conference. Combining resources of the three sectors, this group developed a project to train professionals in various areas (e.g., strategic planning, management, small business development, fundraising, PRA, public relations and image building, computer technologies, conflict resolution, monitoring and evaluation of efficiency). An independent expert group, with representatives from various sectors, was designated for implementing this project, which in essence is designed to consult future efforts in social partnership.

The second project will form an information network, based on resources from all three sectors. In order to develop sustainable social partnerships, a network is needed to identify and coordinate available resources from all sectors. For example: premises of the government and business sector, TV and camera equipment of the media and NGO human resources. Sharing of information with official statistical agencies was mentioned specifically.

## 4. *Civic Education*

This group developed a project to facilitate the development of democratic societies in the Central Asian countries by forming a system of civic education, targeting youth. Described in its work plan, this project, entitled "Creating Civic Education System for Central Asia," will develop a civic education system with participation of all three sectors and all five countries, develop and publish training materials on civic education, training trainers, producing a film for distribution in the mass media, and forming a network of coordination centers in the regions as well as a regional association.

## 5. *Poverty Alleviation*

The project of this working group developed steps for a poverty alleviation project with the participation of NGOs, task forces, local authorities, businesses, and international organizations. Through defining existing problems and priorities, addressed by the three sectors in the first two days, this group created a project by exploring possible solutions and partners' resources.

6. *Small Business Development*

This working group created the project, "Developing Small and Middle-Scale Businesses in Central Asia," through cooperation among the three sectors. The group's main accomplishment stressed the creation of a mechanism of interaction among the sectors to provide domestic products and services at a high quality, to protect domestic production companies, to increase the level of technology, and to search for partners and investors.

7. *Coalition Development*

This group's project, "Social Partnership for Housing Services: Mechanisms for Efficient Bill-Paying by Customers," addressed issues for each sector, meeting the needs of both clients and providers. The results aim to streamline social service delivery, ensure utility consistency, simplify payment procedures, increase the percentage of bill payments, regulate tariffs, and standardize information on consumers and on utility providers.

8. *Democratic Elections*

The project, "Fostering Democratic Elections in Central Asian Republics," aims to provide adequate conditions for democratic elections. Combining resources and allocating responsibilities, the main tasks of this project are:

- train teachers in interactive methods to work with the electorate (in cooperation with international organizations)
- provide adequate legal education to general public (in cooperation with local self-governance bodies)
- develop and use in various groups role plays on election coalitions (in cooperation with experts)
- evaluate adequacy of provisions on equal representation in the existing legislation (in cooperation with businesses)
- conduct special training programs for journalists to ensure accurate coverage of activities of election coalitions
- Lobby and advocate amendments to the existing legislation to increase legal powers of independent election observers
- Develop criteria of evaluation of performance of election candidates and parliament members
- Improve mechanism of recalling parliament members

## FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

### **Training of Trainers in "Social Partnership"**

Following the conference, 19 NGO participants that are Counterpart Contract Trainers attended a Training of Trainers (TOT) to develop a new module on Social Partnership. After several days of working together, they designed a draft manual for Social Partnership workshops. The workshops, conducted in a similar manner as the conference, will be conducted throughout Central Asia to bring elements of local communities together to address their particular problems and issues.

Counterpart's Program Coordinators and Contract Trainers will develop a calendar of events (workshops, round tables, and conferences) to further strengthen efforts and projects in social partnerships.

### **Media Campaign**

In preparation for the above workshops, Counterpart Consortium will provide the technical support to conduct a media campaign on a regional level, developing news releases and featured videos about the conference and future workshops. The workshops will be implemented with similar goals to the conference resulting in potential partnerships and projects designed to address community problems, highlighting community activity on a more grassroots level than the regional conference did.

The Counterpart Consortium Constituency Building staff will actively follow the developments not only from the conference but also from these future workshops. Through press releases, press conferences, featured film segments, the idea and activities of social partnership projects will spread down to the local level through out the region.

### **Implementation of Conference's Projects**

Counterpart Consortium staff will support social partnership initiatives throughout the region with training and technical assistance, including consultation in project design and proposal writing, training in various workshops for interested participants and their colleagues in all four sectors, facilitation of communication and continued venues for discussion.

Counterpart can review any of these projects for grant funding in its grant committee meetings later this year and is already discussing leveraged support from other donors and international support organizations.

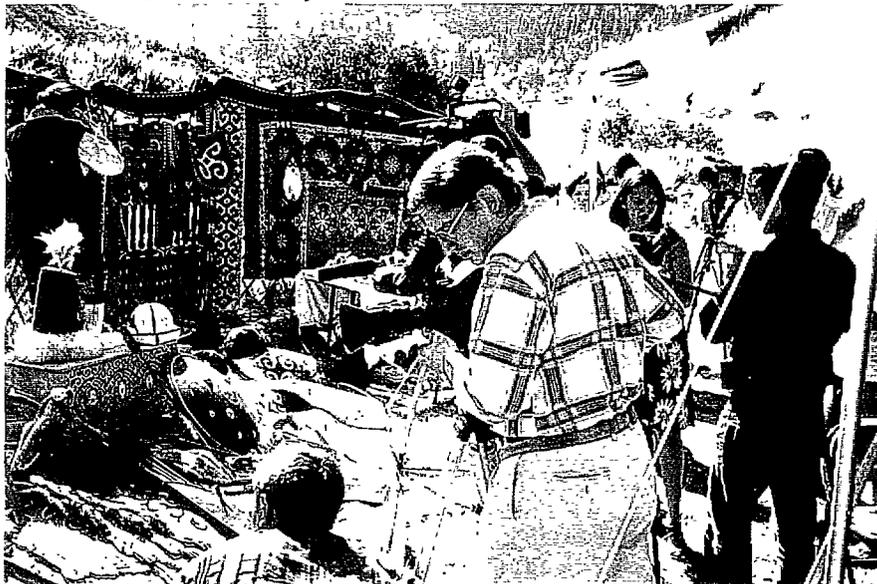
*I intend to continue discussion with the Tajik group when we return to strengthen the social partnership in all sectors. Congratulations for the success.*  
George Labor, UNHCR, Tajikistan



Rimma Nurtayeva, Sheber Aul and  
Dianne Tsitsos, Deputy Regional Mission Director/USAID



Margaret Bishop, ATA Regional Director, addressing the crowd.  
In the background: (left to right) Jack Kwesell, Managing Director Texaco; Akim  
(local mayor) of Greater Almaty Region; Elizabeth Jones, US Ambassador; Mr.  
Wylie Williams, Director of the Peace Corps in Kazakstan; Mr. David Smith,  
Counterpart Chief of Party.



Press filming craft display at the groundbreaking ceremony.

**GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY – SHIBER AUL, KAZAKSTAN – SEPTEMBER 2, 1998**  
**Speech by Margaret Bishop, Aid to Artisans Regional Director for Central Asia**

Honorable Ambassador Jones,  
Mr. Nurkadilov,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Regional Director for Aid to Artisans' Central Asia program, I'd like to welcome you to Shiber Aul. Thank you for coming to celebrate a very happy occasion today in the groundbreaking for an artisan center here.

Before turning the platform over to several very notable guests, I'd like to say a few words about how today's event came to pass.

Shiber Aul as an artisan village was formed by the Soviet government in 1987 under the vision and direction of Mr. Zamanbeck Nurkadilov, now the Almaty Regional Governor. Shiber Aul was formed to foster master craftspeople's handicraft work. Shortly after Shiber Aul's formation, however, the Soviet Union broke up, Kazakstan gained its independence and began its transition to a democratic government and a market economy. The artisans of Shiber Aul have been struggling to succeed in this new and unfamiliar environment.

Aid to Artisans, as a member of the Counterpart Consortium in Central Asia, has been working here in Kazakstan since 1995 under United States Agency for International Development funding. Shiber Aul is one of the first artisan groups with which we began working here.

Back in late November I received a telephone call from a gentleman named Sean Galvin, of TEXACO Oil Corporation. He was visiting TEXACO's Kazakstan operation, and while in Almaty wanted to learn a little about ATA and our work in this country. I explained our work and offered to introduce Sean to a few artisans. On a wintry day we came out here to Shiber Aul. Rimma Nurtaeva, whom you'll meet in a few minutes, showed us around, taking from building to building, pillar to post, to meet artisans and see their crafts.

Sean asked a lot of questions, including one which unbeknownst to Shiber Aul, or me, was to eventually bring us all here today.

He asked the artisans what one thing would make the most difference to them as master craftspeople here. Each answered clearly -- good workshops.

Sean took that answer back to London and we stayed in touch. To make a long story short, Sean and I corresponded repeatedly about Shiber Aul. I talked with David Smith of Counterpart Consortium, and Wylie Williams and Mike Stewart of the United States Peace Corps. I talked with the members of Shiber Aul. This summer Sean Galvin and Jack Kwesell told me that TEXACO Corporation would fund a project to construct an artisan center here at Shiber Aul, to house several new workshops, a tea house and meeting room where visitors can relax and Shiber Aul as an organization and a community can hold meetings, and a retail shop where visitors can buy the beautiful crafts made here in the village.

Peace Corps agreed to place a Volunteer, Bruce Grover, here in Shiber Aul for two years to provide technical assistance in the form of business training.

Through its USAID-funded Corporate Challenge Grant program, Counterpart Consortium agreed to provide assistance for equipment and furnishings as well as continuing training in democracy. ATA is continuing to provide product development and marketing training, plus assistance in democratic governance, all to ensure project sustainability.

In all, six organizations have come together to make today

S groundbreaking for the new artisan center a reality.

In the words of ATA's President Clare Brett Smith, who couldn't be here today but who knows personally the artisans of Shiber Aul and many of you, "The artisans of Shiber Aul are to be admired for not losing heart in the transition which so affected their initial support. TEXACO is to be greatly admired for being able to help the artisans' dream become a reality. Peace Corps is to be commended for its commitment to help the artisans further develop the skills they need in this new environment, Governor Nurkadilov for his foresight and continuing support of the artisans, and USAID and the US Embassy for seeing and making possible such a vivid example of sustainable, culture-based economic development in a newly democratic society."

On behalf of Aid to Artisans, I want to thank TEXACO Oil Corporation, Peace Corps, USAID, the US Embassy, and Counterpart Consortium for their commitment and generosity to make this artisan center project happen, and I want to encourage the artisans of Shiber Aul to continue their faith and determination to make this project a huge success.



Central Asian Post

# Social partnership for prosperity

By Arkady Chomakin

Social partnership for prosperity is a topic of the Regional Conference on Social Partnership that started its activity yesterday in the resort Kyrgyz Lakeside located on the shores of Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic.

It is being held by the Counterpart Consortium International Fund financed by the USA Agency on International Development (USAID).

The main goal of the Conference is to support the development of a partnership relation among the non-governmental organizations, governmental bodies, commercial enterprises and mass media in the introduction and working out of social policy in the Central Asian Republics. Organizers hope that this Conference will become a further step on the way to understanding the necessity and usefulness of cooperation among these three sectors. It will do this by demonstrating how to strengthen mutual trust, as well as build effective partnerships to address social problems based on joint planning, using the resources of all interested parties.

About 140 people who represent the five Central Asian countries are participating in the Conference. Among the participants are workers with the Counterpart Consortium International Fund, representatives of non-governmental organizations, workers of governmental agencies at the Republican, regional and local levels, and representatives of commercial enterprises and mass media.

The first day was devoted to planning questions, including situational analysis, and the determination of priorities and possibilities for joint action.

Today's discussions will focus on an analysis of available resources and possible cooperation between all interested parties. And tomorrow will be devoted to the development of project outlines and ideas and the possible direction of social partnership.

It is planned to hold a working meeting in which participants will work as team players in small groups and larger sessions as well to create an effective model of social partnership and discover the advantages and potential problems of collaboration among non-governmental organizations, governmental agencies and commercial enterprises. A presentational "gallery" with material on social partnership from all Central Asian countries will be held, enabling all interested sides to exchange their ideas on practical partnership.

After the Conference, Counterpart Consortium will hold educational workshops for representatives of non-governmental organizations. The topics will include Social Partnership, Human Resources Administration and Team Creation, and the Resolution of Conflicts. The instructors have been invited from the five Central Asian countries. Later, they will introduce this block into their edu-



# Texaco assists artisans' village

A groundbreaking ceremony for the revitalization of the "Sheber Aul" artisans' village took place on September 2, 1998 in the suburbs of Almaty, Kok-shoki village, located in the picturesque place of Zaili Alatau. The main sponsor of the construction project, Texaco International (USA) oil company, made a major grant to the artisan's non-governmental organization (NGO) for the construction of workshops, tea house and craft sales shop.

This unique project brings together the efforts of not only Texaco and the artisans, but also involves the efforts of the Regional Akim of Almaty and his administration, Aid to Artisans, U.S. Peace Corps, Counterpart Consortium and USAID in a two year project.

According to Jack Kwezell, Texaco Managing Director, "the construction phase of the project will consist of building six workshops for leather, wood, metal and jewelry and two for textile work. The buildings will also include a handicraft sales shop and a chaikhana which will double as a meeting room for the artisans' village and other interested in the development of folk crafts".

Sheber Aul was founded in 1987 as a part of the subsidization program for artisans. Master craftsmen and artists from around the country were relocated to this village. After the collapse of the USSR funding of the project ceased. At present approximately 50 families live in the village. The majority of the artisans of Sheber Aul produce some of the most outstanding pieces of folk art in Central Asia. In 1996 the Sheber Aul artisans made saddles for the President's cavalry and they are currently completing traditional armor to be used in a movie about Chingis Khan that is being produced by Kazakh Film Studio.

"The new buildings will make it possible for artisans to have more and better workshops as well as a place to sell their products and demonstrate their work to members of the public. When tourists and local residents visit the village they will also have a chance to taste locally made snacks in the chaikhana and enjoy the beauty of the surrounding ecological park," says Margaret Bishop of Aid to Artisans.

Yeltsin congratulates Akayev

The ground breaking ceremony was participated in by US Ambassador to Kazakhstan Ms. A Elizabeth Jones, Almaty Regional Akim Mr. Zamanbek Nurkadilov, Managing Director of Texaco International Mr. Jack Kwezell, Deputy Regional Director of the American Agency for International Development (USAID) Ms. Dianne Tsitsos, Central Asian Regional Director of Aid to Artisans Ms. Margaret Bishop, Counterpart Consortium Regional Director Mr. David Smith, Director of the U.S. Peace Corps Mr. Wylie Williams and Director of the Sheber Aul NGO Ms. Rimma Nurtaeva.

As ambassador Jones addressed the participants she said, "It is a pleasure to see that while Kazakhstan rebuilds its economy the importance of its art and artisans to the development of the nation will not be forgotten".

Counterpart's Director said that by breaking the ground for the foundation of the new buildings in "Sheber Aul" the participants of the ceremony re-affirm the principles of democracy and successful cooperation in all spheres of life. This social partnership is most important in the development of the nation.

Sue Benedetti, Almaty

PHOTO BY GULNARAH KHUKHENOVA

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# One time

Soon after celebrating the 7th anniversary of Kyrgyzstan's independence, the national press published an address to the nation by Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev, which caused a wide public response.

In his address, President Akayev suggested holding a nationwide discussion of some vitally important issues and make appropriate amendments to the Constitution. The president has offered to change the parliament's structure: to elect 67 deputies to the Legislative Assembly instead of the current 35 members, and 38 members to the People's Representatives Assembly, 15 of whom would represent political parties. The president also offered to discuss the



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EVENTS September 14, 1998 Central Asian Post

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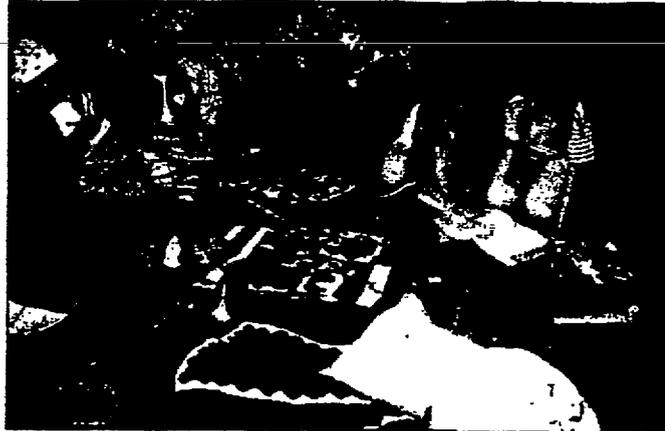
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PHOTO BY GULNARIN KHUBENOVA

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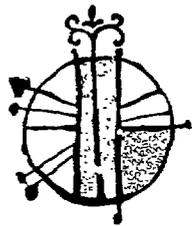
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*Sheber Aul*

АМАНГЕЛЬДЫ МУКАЖАНОВ  
ювелир

AMANGELDY MUKAZHANOV  
jeweller

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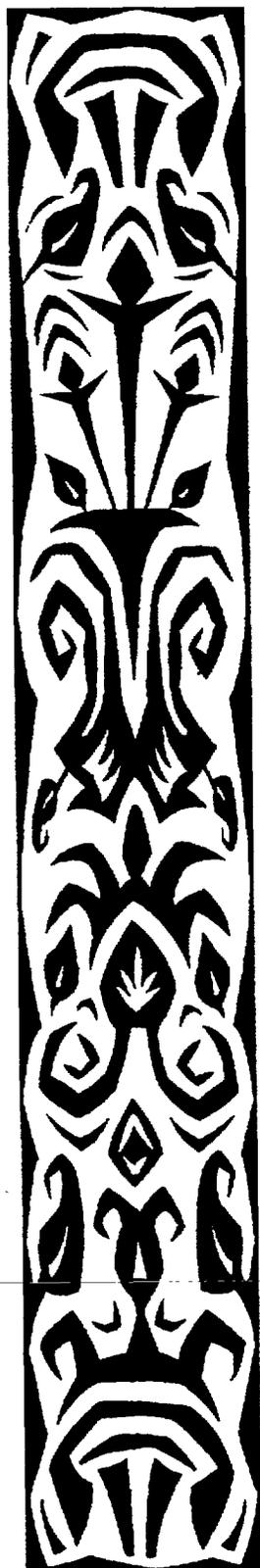
Қазақстан, Алматы, Қаскеленский р-он,  
пос. "Кок-Шоқы", 2 ГЭС  
GES 2, Kok-Shoky village, Kaskelen area,  
Almaty, Kazakstan  
Тел./Tel.: (3272) 343065

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Newly designed Sheber Aul logo and business cards.

*BEST AVAILABLE COPY*

# The Artisans' Village



Welcome to Shiber Aul - a village of craftspeople and a child of K. Tleukhanov, an applied arts practitioner.

## Applied Arts – Calling card of a nation

Shiber Aul, which is located in a picturesque area of Almarasan Gorge, was founded in 1989 by Mr. Tleukhanov, who used to say that applied arts is a visiting card and a spiritual passport of each nation. He also said that cultural masterpieces reflect the wisdom, psychology, and mode of living of the nation, its thoughts, and feelings. In the beginning of the center, the young craftsmen of the Aul committed themselves to facilitating the solution of problems related to the spiritual renovation of society and individuals.

## Developing applied arts in Kazakstan

Nearly 40 craftspeople live in the Aul. Despite the hard living conditions of the village, they are successful not only in preserving their creative face, but also in contributing to the development of applied arts in Kazakstan. The objectives of the Shiber Aul craftspeople are: studying, retaining, and developing traditions of national applied arts. The assortment of crafts produced in Aul is very wide. They include over 900 varieties of products in such categories as:

- Folk and modern musical instruments
- Jewelry
- Souvenirs
- Special furniture
- National clothing

## President Nazarbayev patronizes

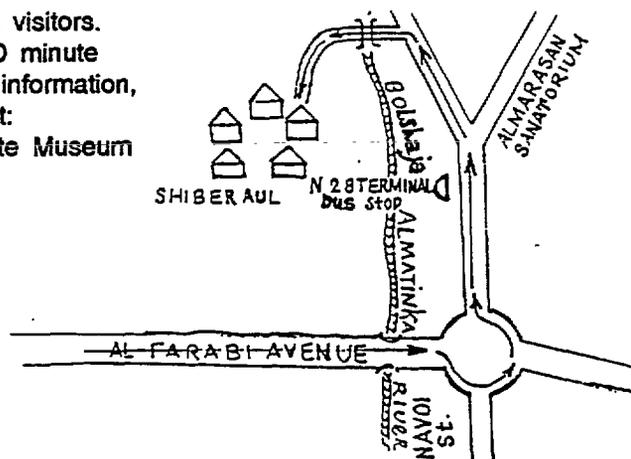
Due to the contribution to the development of national applied arts, the craftspeople at Shiber Aul have been patronized by our President, Nazerbayev.

## Preserving and developing handicrafts

We, at Shiber Aul are happy to preserve and develop Kazakstan's applied arts, our holy heritage.

## Visitors are welcome

The artisans' village welcomes visitors. Shiber Aul is located just a 20 minute drive from Almaty. For more information, telephone Rimma Nurtayeva at: 41-83-66 (H); or 64-55-77 State Museum of Arts, Almaty)



*Dear Ms. Allaf-Lemaire,*

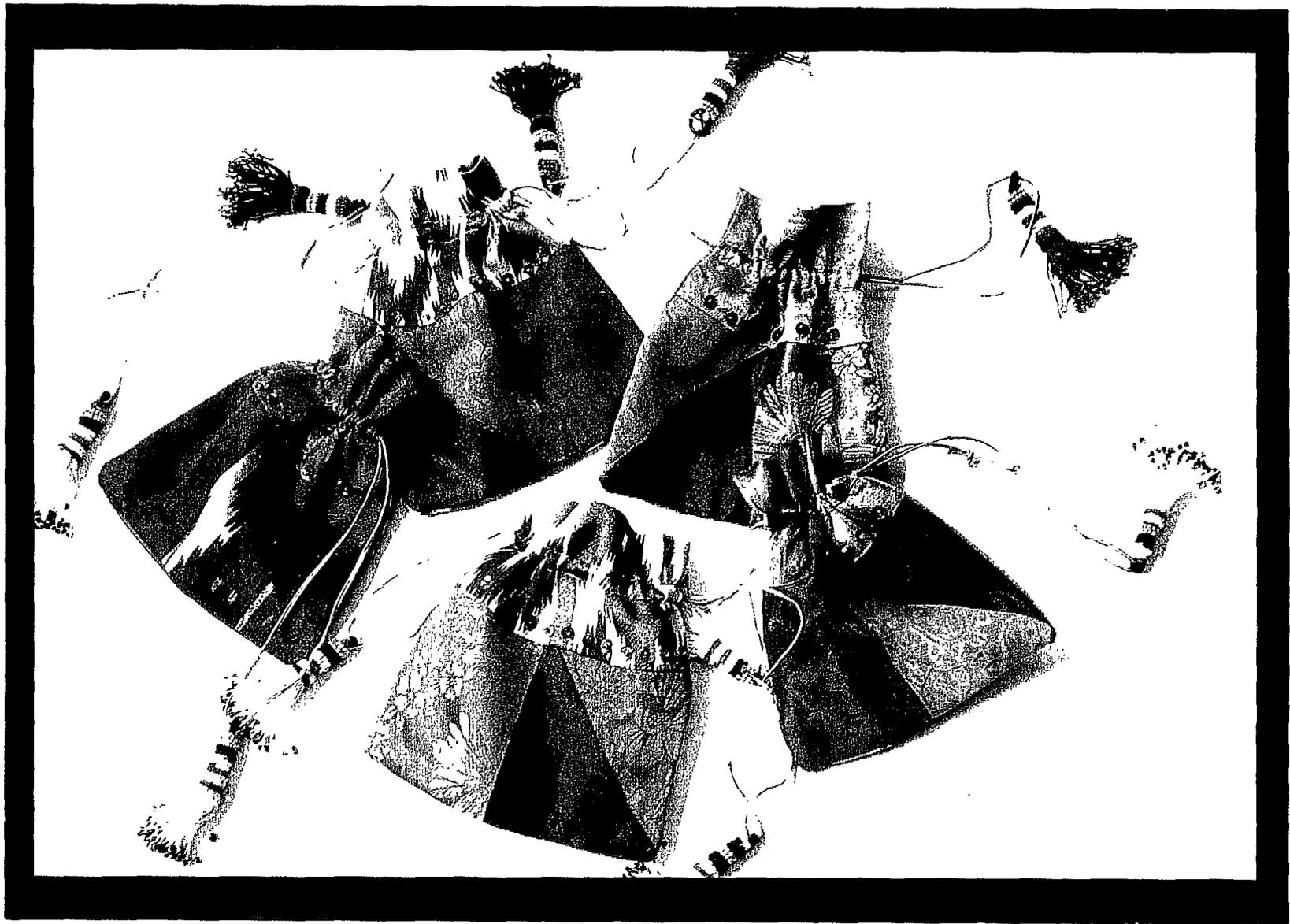
*Aid to Artisans, on behalf of the artisans of Central Asia, cordially invites you to the private opening of an exhibition and sale of unique and very special Central Asian handicrafts from the republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 29, at the IRIDA Gallery, Prospect Mira #68, Moscow. Tea and oriental sweets will be served and artisans will be on hand to introduce their products and explain the tales behind their traditions.*

*The exhibition and sale will be open to the public from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on September 29 and from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. September 30 through October 3. This event is sponsored by USAID - Central Asia through Aid to Artisans.*

*Please come see beautiful souzanne embroidery, traditional ceramics, carved wood, miniature paintings, hand-woven silk ikats, and many other fine home, office, and fashion accessories.*

*Very sincerely,*

*Margaret Bishop  
Regional Director for Central Asia  
Aid to Artisans*

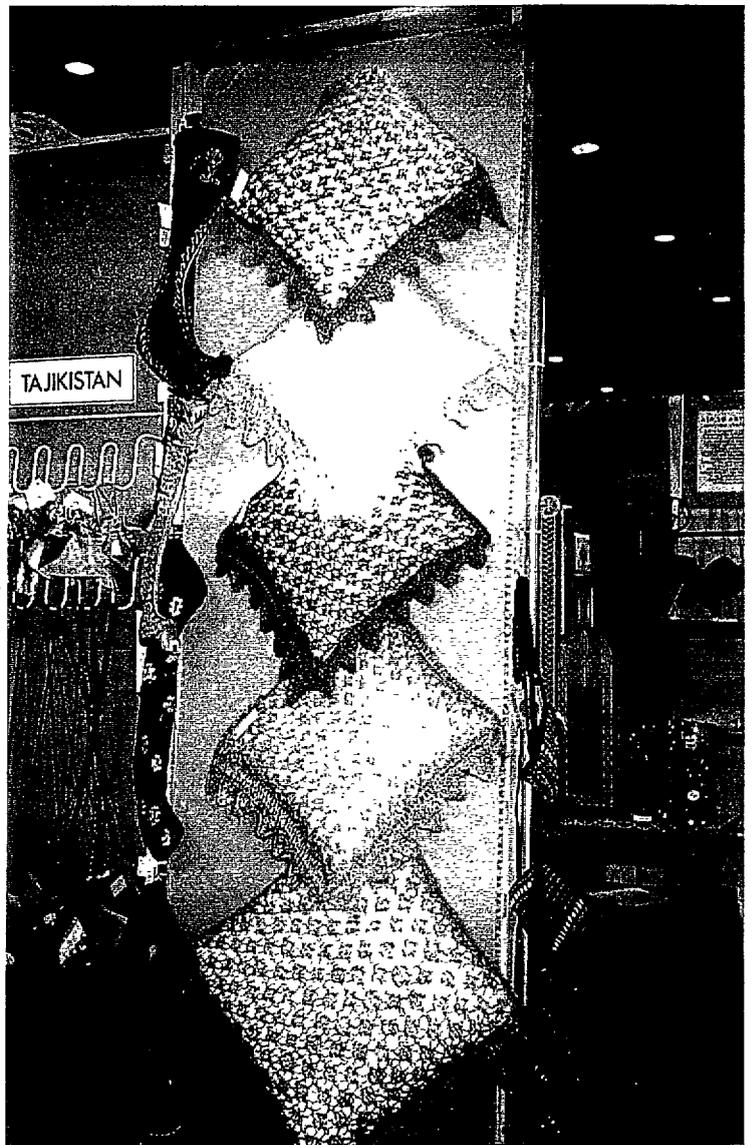


ATA postcard featuring Tajik bags sold at the New York International Gift Fair.

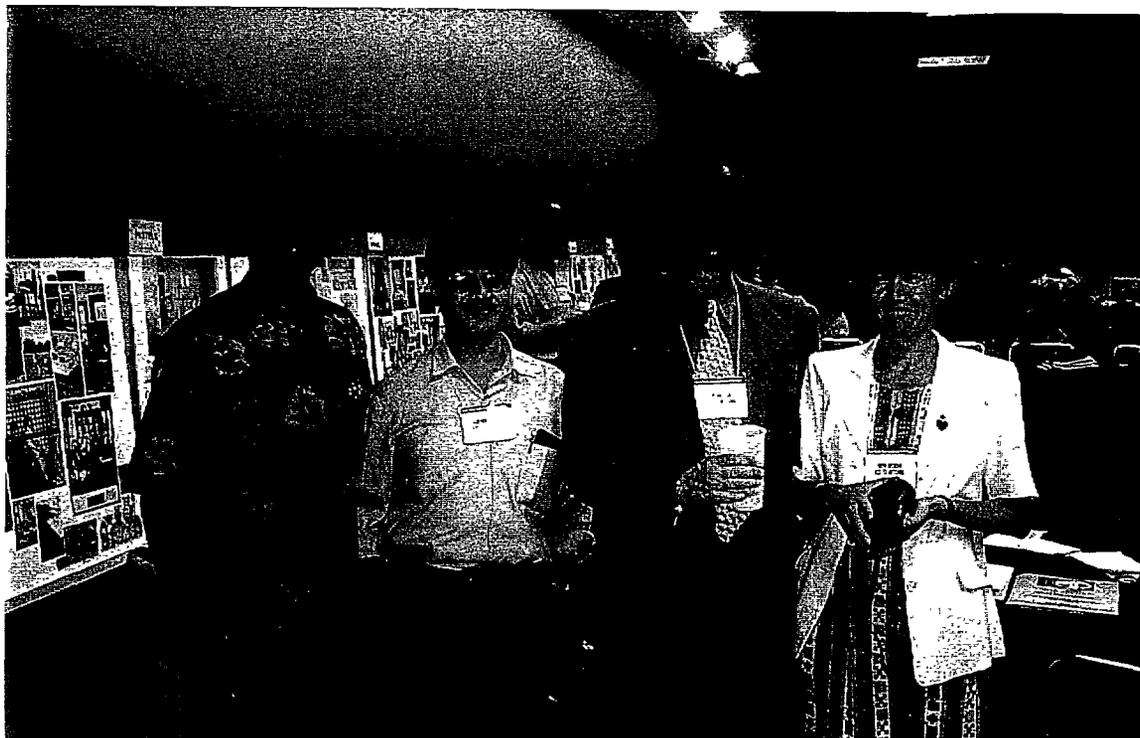




Tolokun Osmonalieva, Kyrgyzstan  
Embassy Washington, DC at the New York International Gift Fair.



ATA Central Asia Display at the New York International Gift Fair



Maya Aminova, Leader of the Coordination Center Women's Initiative (Tajikistan); Tom Aageson, Executive Director; ATA Training participants from Ghana and Nepal.



Maya Aminova, Leader of the Coordination Center Women's Initiative (Tajikistan) attending ATA training seminars during the New York International Gift Fair.