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**THE COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM**

**NGO SUPPORT INITIATIVE FOR CENTRAL ASIA**

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**QUARTERLY REPORT**

**April 1 – June 30, 1999**

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**COUNTERPART International, Inc.**

**1200 18<sup>th</sup> St., NW, Ste. 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: 202-296-9676  
Fax: 202-296-9679**

**100 Shevchenko St.  
Almaty, Kazakhstan  
Tel: 7-3272-62-50-09  
Fax: 7-3272-60-86-06**

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## I. 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

#### **BUILDING NGO CAPACITY**

##### **Integration of Tolerance Education in Kyrgyz School Curricula**

There is an evidence of numerous interpersonal conflicts among high school students of the Issyk-Kul region, which leads to poor attendance and disinterest in school studies. The members of the MAK Foundation made several attempts to write a grant application to address all those problems. A series of training workshops attended by the NGO members at Counterpart Consortium helped them write an efficient proposal and acquire skills in situation analysis and needs assessment. In addition, Counterpart assisted the NGO in searching for a partner to organize the training of trainers to conduct classes in tolerance education for students. Tolerance and Harmony Foundation was identified as a project partner. To implement the project, the MAK Foundation worked in partnership with local Department of Education, which assisted the NGO in distributing information to schools throughout the region as well as provided the group with transportation and a training room. 30 schoolteachers of the Issyk-Kul region attended training of trainers. The Regional Department of Education approved the new course of study and as a result of that tolerance training was officially integrated in the school curricula for the students of 5-10 grades at 30 public schools.

##### **Future Leaders Exchange Alumni Help Tajik Orphans**

There are 90 children between the ages of 3 and 12 in the "Internat" orphanage in the Dushanbe suburb Leninski District. The orphans live in poor conditions and suffer from poor nutrition and lack of amenities of virtually every kind. The Alumni of the Freedom Support Act Future Leaders Exchange Program (FSA FLEX), a US-Tajikistan high school exchange program, with training and technical assistance from Counterpart Consortium, has created a local NGO to assist vulnerable groups such as this in the Dushanbe area. The relationship between the members of the newly-formed NGO and the orphanage began in November of 1998, when they hosted a Halloween and Thanksgiving (American holidays the former exchange students learned to love during their experiences in the US) party for the children. Then in June 1999 the NGO members gathered food, clothes and children's books locally and distributed them to the children at the orphanage, where they spent the day playing games together.

##### **Contract NGO Gets Kudos from Peers and Donor**

At this point in the NGO Support Initiative (Phase II) Counterpart has successfully developed the capacity of targeted NGOs to perform as contractors to perform needs assessments, perform problem analysis and plan, schedule and implement training and a variety of other services for international organizations and for other local NGOs. Good results were noted from the first experience in late 1998 and have continued to the present: The NGO *Manijha* was referred to assist with the training needs of UNDP's 22 Community Development Centers (CDCs) in the Khatlon Oblast and neighboring districts. The project began in February and was completed in May 1999. The local NGO did a series of needs-assessments of the CDCs, and, based on those, developed a training plan. The overall purpose was to train the CDCs to

become independent and self-sustaining NGOs, through the series of trainings. The effectiveness of the training was evaluated and determined to have produced very positive results. Moreover, there were numerous requests from the CDCs for training on advanced topics. UNDP and the beneficiaries all believe local training to be very effective for developing the capacity of NGOs and CBOs and that local NGOs have amply demonstrated they can supply these services if they are adequately prepared.

#### **Turkmenistan NGO Fills Real Need in Collaboration with other Community Stakeholders**

Turkmenistan is one of the countries with the highest level of seismic danger. The threat of strong catastrophic earthquakes remains a real factor of daily risk for Turkmen citizens. In response to the lack of public information related to seismic safety, Counterpart grantee Formatsia, has created the only Turkmen Informational Technical Training Center for Seismic Safety in the country. In collaboration with the Institute of Seismology, the State Commission on Emergency Situations and three other NGO partners, almost 500 children have been trained to help themselves and their families in the event of an earthquake.

- As a result of positive student responses to the training, School #41 has requested that training be offered to improve the knowledge of its own students
- The Head of The Emergency Commission within the Turkmen Cabinet of Ministers stated in a public forum that, "Formatsia is filling a vital need to prepare the population for earthquakes and we look forward to working with this NGO on a follow-up project on broader disaster relief"
- The Red Crescent Society is planning to develop a partnership project with this NGO to use these concepts in at least 5 other schools in the city.

#### **PARTNERSHIP AND COALITION BUILDING**

##### **NGO Leads First Earth Day Celebration in Highly Polluted Eastern Kazakhstan City**

For the first time, 15 NGOs of Leninogorsk, an industrial city of eastern Kazakhstan, joined forces to celebrate International Earth Day. The Mayor's office and other local government agencies supported this initiative. A Counterpart grantee in this city, the ecological NGO *Belovodye-1*, initiated and led this five-day environmental campaign, aimed at raising ecological awareness. The principal event of this campaign was the first ever city children's ecological parade.

##### **Distance Learning Partnership Mobilized Student Environmental Activism in Kyrgyzstan**

Secondary schools in Kyrgyzstan are lagging behind in high-tech information approaches in models of education. There are few modern-equipped computers and limited access to the Internet in high schools. With support from Counterpart Consortium's partnership grant program, the NGO ILIM has formed a partnership with the US NGO 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schoolhouse. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schoolhouse links schools from around the world in an integrated Internet-based curriculum. Although the project will officially begin at the start of the academic year in the fall, preliminary internet-based collaboration has already delivered significant results for ILIM and 22 students participating from different public schools. For example:

- With minimal assistance from teachers, a group of students designed and is implementing a campaign to increase public awareness of the value of National parklands.
- 4 students are designing a web page for the Kyrgyzstan Schoolhouse team.
- Students of ILIM have been trained at a series of workshops in leadership and ecology-related issues. As a result, four students were able to design and conduct training in "Choosing an Island", which is a part of the overall "21<sup>st</sup> Century Schoolhouse" program. The training participants selected an island where they would create a virtual and ideal country.
- 16 students use new personal e-mail accounts on a regular basis; via Internet, ILIM has established a strong network with partners with the same mission from Moscow and Novosibirsk.

### **“40 Springs” Water Association Forms**

Utility services to people living in outlying areas adjacent to Dushanbe have been severely curtailed and many families have been without safe and potable domestic water for several years. In 1998, a group of community leaders, local government officials and makhalla leaders formed the NGO *Chel Cheshma (40 Springs)*, the first domestic water users association in Tajikistan. The group has a Board of 28 people who were the founders and currently is serving some 4,400 family residences. The effort to improve domestic water availability in that area was initially begun in several separate and independent pieces, of which three were built as micro-projects of the Tajikistan Social Investment Fund (TASIF) and other pieces were formerly parts of kolkhozes (collective farms or processing plants) that are now reduced in size or broken into pieces and partially privatized. The integration of the separate projects into one association was accomplished as the result of an interactive community-based workshop carried out in Leninsky District by a local NGO under a grant from Counterpart Consortium.

Counterpart grantee NGO *Man and Nature* conducted an initial workshop on Problem Identification & Problem Solving (*Problem ID*) for community and local government leaders in the area. Following the workshop, a group of the participants were instrumental in putting together first an interest group to explore their common interests in working together on the water issues and then the water association. During this process Counterpart provided additional workshops: *NGO & Community, Project Design* and *NGO Management* to help them to organize and register themselves as an NGO. *40 Springs* has also expressed interest in further assistance from Counterpart on issues related to user/member participation, more democratic governance, financial management and sustainability for the new association.

### **Ad Hoc Environment NGO Coalition Strengthens Government Collaboration in Turkmenistan**

For many years in Turkmenistan there were no partnership connections between NGOs and government institutions, especially Ministries. As the result of a recent roundtable, a group of 12 eco-NGOs will coordinate their activities and work on the national government’s ecology policy. This event marked the first time that a Ministry in Turkmenistan initiated and hosted an open discussion with members of NGOs to discuss policy. Results include:

- The Deputy Minister designated a contact person at the Ministry from whom all NGOs can receive updated information about eco-programs in Turkmenistan.
- The Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection outlined its priority projects for the next year and encouraged NGO members to form working groups and provide input on national ecological workplans.
- Representatives from the Ministry met individually with each of the NGO representatives after the roundtable, asking for their opinions and priorities.
- The 12 NGOs began discussion to prepare formal registration materials as an ecological coalition, in the framework of a Counterpart project in partnership with the Ministry.

### **Youth Forum in Samarkand**

For the first time ever in Samarkand, ten Samarkand-based NGOs, together with the youth-focused political party *Fidokor*, convened a conference entitled “Forum of Youth Organizations.” Topics discussed at the Forum included the role, programs and impact of NGO activities in the region for youth leaders, businesspeople, education officers and government officials. Counterpart-trained leaders from local NGOs facilitated the Forum workshops. The Forum provided a mechanism for NGOs in the region to demonstrate their capacity and graphically present successful development of each Samarkand NGO. Since the Forum took place, NGO participants experience a greater flow of visitors to their offices for information, counseling and other services.

### **NGO Leads Reestablishment of Ecological Education in Turkmenistan**

Ecological education has been removed from the national curriculum in Turkmenistan. As a result, children are growing up without an understanding of how their actions impact the environment, their health, and the safety of their communities. In response, the ecological club Yashil was formed in 1996 by a group of concerned mothers and teachers who began exploring ways to use games to expose elementary-aged school children to their environment. Since receiving a Counterpart grant in 1998, the NGO has conducted a broad range of successful activities, including:

- providing almost 1,400 lessons in Russian and Turkmen in 20 Ashgabad schools;
- helping students organize 4 tree planting activities;
- publishing monthly newsletters for all Ashgabad schools; and
- conducting 2 conferences and several Earth Day competitions and special events.

A number of partner NGOs have also been involved. Teachers, school officials and the local Department of Education officials are supportive and actively involved in the project. Two schools have offered free space to the NGO in attempts to increase the availability of their services in their schools.

### **Turkmenistan NGO Leads Reproductive Health Reform**

Over the past year, statistics gathered by Arkadag have revealed that 36% of pregnant women in Ashgabad suffer from toxemia and 38% are anemic, yet the medical facilities available to these women are often under-stocked and in poor condition. Under the objectives of a Counterpart support grant, Arkadag conducted surveys of 170 women between the ages of 21-40 which revealed that 1/3 of the women were unhappy with the treatment that they received during pregnancy and felt that the quality of medical services in maternity homes is unsatisfactory. Despite these complaints, the women had nowhere to turn to voice their dissatisfaction until Arkadag's newsletter gave them a forum. In addition, Arkadag attracted six partner NGOs to the cause by organizing a roundtable to educate women on "Issues of Women's Health and Legal Rights."

As a result:

- Arkadag has been identified as a key partner in UNFPA's Gender and Development Program.
- For the first time in Turkmenistan, an NGO has initiated and hosted it's own roundtable in which health statistics based upon an independent survey among patients and conducted by an NGO were discussed and presented to an international panel influencing policy decisions.
- This event generated linkages between international and local NGOs in the area of women's' rights from the perspective of the patient's voice, attracting 5 new volunteers (3 from other NGOs and 2 women who took part in the survey) to Arkadag's work.

### **MEDIA/OUTREACH**

#### **Media Coverage Strengthens Awareness and Respect for NGOs in Central Asia**

Very few people in the general public, and especially government of Central Asia know what NGOs are and how they can by themselves or with other sectors solve problems of society. Constituency building programs throughout the five Central Asian Countries have helped to increase the awareness of the general public and specific sectors through Regional Television programs, coverage of NGO successes and issues as well as special events. As a result:

- Two Artisan NGOs in Almaty and one in Bukhara recently have gained the attention of influential people and government officials. They attribute this success to the extensive coverage in the media of NGO issues and events surrounding their organizations.
- Sheber Aul NGO, which has been in the media a total of 43 times in 8 months was recently invited to a meeting organized by Regional government to discuss how they can cooperate on local issues.

- Center Bahyt, a recently organized NGO has also been receiving more cooperation from the government since their involvement with the media in publicizing the semi-annual Regional craft fair in Almaty last November. The CB unit designed to publicity coverage for the event and trained local NGOs to carry out this publicity after the initial event.
- Matluba Bazarova, Director of the Bukhara Artisan Center was named as a Woman of the Year in Uzbekistan. The main reasons, according to the selection committee, were because of the publications and video materials about her and her organization. She presented this mass media material to the judging committee.

### **Creating a better Informed Public Concerning Election Issues**

In Kyrgyzstan, some of the general public was not well informed about the Election Law. Some NGO representatives felt that the election code should be changed. Others just didn't understand it. The NGO coalition for Democracy and Civil Society teamed up to try to give a forum to people who wanted change and to provide NGOs and the broader public with information about the Election code. They decided to conduct a dispute club or discussion forum inviting deputies of the Legislative Assembly, Election Code team members, representatives of the Central Election Committee, International Organizations, NGOs, students, independent observers and the media. The results were that NGOs were given the opportunity to express their ideas, opinions and suggestion on election legislation. NGOs showed that they are a serious power and capable of generating ideas and initiative in the society. The event was well covered by the media resulting in 4 newspaper articles, 5 radio news reports, one 30-minute broadcast and 10 TV reports. This reporting helped to inform the public about the election law and the fact that NGOs are interested in Elections.

### **NGO Leads Youth Awareness of Elections in Kyrgyzstan**

Kyrgyzstan is facing the upcoming presidential and parliamentary election. Although the new Election Code was approved by the Parliament it is still new for the general public. In order to mobilize direct involvement of young people as both voters and observers, the Center for Study and Support of Election Systems "Polis" designed a project for promoting electorate education on TV, supported by a grant from Counterpart. 2000 students participated in televised game shows that mobilized youth activists and educated a much broader portion of the population, who watched the programs. The Kyrgyz Central Election Committee acknowledged the importance of the NGOs activities. The 2000 students have demonstrated their capability and knowledge of new regulations and are now ready to act as independent observers and even as members of election committees if necessary.

### **Journalist Association in Tajikistan**

A year ago, Journalists in Tajikistan were not very knowledgeable about NGOs. In less than a year, they have grown in both knowledge and interest through the efforts of the CB coordinator and participation of two journalists in the Regional Social Partnership Conference in Issyk-Kul last September. In May this year the Tajik Association of Journalists for Social Partnership (AFSP) became the first such association in Central Asia to be registered by the Ministry of Justice. They created an advisory board representing all sectors of society in Tajikistan: Government, Business, NGOs and Media. During the first 6 months of this year the Association has conducted 2 workshops, 3 roundtables, a nationwide conference, a press conference and formed an additional chapter of AJSP in Khojand. They are currently running two competitions for journalists this year in order to increase the quantity and quality of media productions on Social Partnership. They not only address journalists in their events, but have become the leading organizers of the Social Partnership movement throughout the sectors of Tajikistan. Their efforts have garnered a request from the Oblast Akim to conduct a seminar in Social Partnership for the Journalists of Kurgon -Teppa.

### **Broadcast Coverage of NGOs in Uzbekistan**

During nearly 20 months of working with the media in Uzbekistan, radio and television coverage of NGO issues and activities has been at a bare minimum, with an average of one TV program and 1.2 radio programs per month. During this past quarter, we have split the CB position to one half-time broadcast specialist and one half-time print media specialist. The broadcast specialist met regularly with broadcasters in Tashkent and the CB staff conducted a workshop on NGO and community, which was tailored to journalists' knowledge and interests. These two main activities generated 10 TV programs and 12 Radio programs for the month of June.

#### **“Renaissance” Carrying Out The Orphan Children Hygienic Education Program**

The Uzbekistan NGO *Renaissance* conducted a survey of over 200 children in the Karakalpak orphanage *Mekhribanlik Uyi* and found that 90% of the 148 children between the ages of 6 and 9 and 60% of children between the ages of 10 and 16 lacked basic knowledge about sanitary hygienic practices. *Renaissance* developed an education campaign using local physicians and employing teaching methodologies, such as role-playing, illustrated handouts and theatrical performances. As a result of the campaign, which was supported with Counterpart training and funding as well as collaboration from the Ministry of Health, 97% of all children have basic knowledge about elementary hygienic rules. Also resulting from this success was the introduction by the Ministry of Health of a weekly radio program on sanitary-hygienic education.

#### **FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY/LEVERAGING**

##### **Social Entrepreneurship Generates Recognition and Income for Kazakhstan NGO**

Developing diversified funding sources for financial sustainability is still the major challenge facing most NGOs in Kazakhstan. The Kiwanis Club of Taraz, a Counterpart grantee developed a business plan for building an entertainment theme park on the outskirts of the city in a former unofficial garbage dump. Using fundraising skills learned at Counterpart trainings, NGO leaders successfully approached the Oblast Akimat and one commercial company with their plan to form an implementing Consortium. In June 1999, the Taraz AquaPark opened and has already started to generate modest monthly revenue for the Taraz Kiwanis Club.

##### **Committee of Soldiers' Mothers Arranges Jobs for Ex-Servicemen in Kazakhstan**

A recent survey conducted by the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers shows that only 5% of 13,000 ex-servicemen furloughed last year in the Almaty region have since found employment. To respond to the problem, the Committee decided to broaden the scope of its activity and has opened a carpenter workshop to provide ex-servicemen with marketable job skills. As a result of improved fundraising and strategic planning skills gained at Counterpart training workshops, the Committee secured local private sector sponsorship to obtain a building and five major pieces of equipment. These same corporate supporters have committed to hiring graduates of the training program.

##### **Kazakhstan Pensioner Association Engages Local Government in Utility Policy Reform**

In 1998, *Pokolenie* Pensioner Association installed 60 water meters in random pensioner families to prove that the official rate of water usage was overstated. Based on this research, they successfully advocated for a temporary freeze of utility rates. Continuing to expand upon this project funded with a Counterpart grant, *Pokolenie* has successfully used Counterpart fundraising techniques to obtain almost 3,000 additional water meters from the Almaty Hakim (mayor) and the company that provides water to the city. This project is helping pensioners reduce their water bills by almost 50%. Based on the success of this project, *Pokolenie* has received Soros Foundation grant to replicate the project targeting gas usage.

##### **Rural NGOs in Kyrgyzstan Proactively Uses Fundraising Tools.**

There are no legislative incentives for local corporations to donate money to NGOs. Therefore, fundraising activities in the country are not always successful. Members of the NGO “Leader” attended

Counterpart's training and received a grant to act as an NGO supporting organization in the eastern Issyk-Kul region. The NGO staff has been trained as trainers to conduct Counterpart training workshops for the NGO community of Issyk-Kul. They held the first ever raffle in Kyrgyzstan, and approached private companies and donor agencies for donations of items. The NGO received products and services worth \$750 as in-kind contribution, which were used as prizes in the raffle. The raffle itself helped the NGO generate \$850 that was used to conduct community-based activities and sports competitions for youth.

#### **Kyrgyzstan NGO Demonstrates Stronger Institutional Capacity with Diversified Funding Sources**

Shoola NGO was one of the first Counterpart grantees in Issyk-Kul Oblast and has attended a broad range of Counterpart support activities since 1996. Since that time the NGO was very successful in soliciting money from international agencies. Last year the NGO got grants from Dutch Interchurch Aid (\$23,000) and the Eurasia Foundation (\$8,660). Sacred Earth Network donated a laptop and free access to e-mail for a year. DAI awarded a sub-contract to provide assistance to a Kazakh NGO to strengthen their project implementation skills.

#### **Local Tajikistan NGO Achieves Sustainability and Growth**

NGO *Adabsaro*, a former Counterpart grantee, has found support to continue its program through the "Cultural and Educational Center for Girls," in a poor Dushanbe *makhalla*. The Center provides subsidized free schooling for girls from poverty level families in the *Makhalla*, through the support of local donors (individuals and groups). Counterpart Consortium provided trainings and technical assistance and helped this local NGO mount an effective fundraising campaign in the more affluent areas of Dushanbe as well as undertake small entrepreneurship efforts involving the students, alumni and parent families. *Adabsaro*'s program focuses on basic literacy in standard curriculum subjects, handicrafts, and skills needed for future employment. The NGO members and volunteers actively work with children and make extra effort to involve parents as well. The NGO started its small entrepreneurship with raising chickens and selling eggs and live chickens, training the students in the process. This is a good example of a local NGO managing to find creative ways to sustain itself using local resources. They also have submitted a proposal to Soros Foundation to expand their activities to serve more children.

#### **Turkmenistan NGO Secures Corporate Assistance with Support from Local Government**

The Umyt Center for Social rehabilitation recently opened its doors to physically challenged children and adults in Turkmenbashi City. Practicing new skills in fundraising and advocacy learned through participation in Counterpart training, the NGO developed a fundraising strategy to obtain furniture for the center. First, the support of the local Mayor's office was secured in the form of a jointly-hosted Social Partnership Roundtable to present the valuable project. As a result of the NGO's skill and the Mayor's endorsement of a donation campaign, \$600 in used furniture and medical supplies was donated by local businesses.

#### **Counterpart Links Farming Community with Winrock Experts to Solve Water Problem**

Since 1991 the irrigation systems serving the farmers of Turkmenbashi etrap of Dashouz Velayet have slowly fallen into disrepair. This is especially true of the large pumps used for lifting water out of irrigation canals to flood adjacent fields. The spare parts for pumps are not available and the pumps often require costly repairs. In the village of Garaul Gala where the Water Users' Association has provided assistance to organize the community and build serdops (water cisterns) for storing drinking water, the drinking water committee expanded its focus to solving a local irrigation problem. In January, Counterpart responded to a request from the committee to introduce the Farmer to Farmer Program Representative of Winrock, International to the committee and community.

Results:

- Since then drawing on a community decision-making process, the water committee, local irrigation authorities and Winrock volunteers (irrigation specialists from New Mexico and Texas) built a water gate in the canal that serves the fields of Garaul Gala.
- The American design was adapted by a resident engineer to suit local conditions and materials.
- Residents volunteered their labor for over a month as the gate was being built.
- Over 300 farmers are able to flood their fields using gravity flow instead of having to rely on pumps. The first harvest of melons will begin in late July and cotton harvesting will resume in September.

#### **At Risk Kids in Turkmenistan Get a Second Chance Thanks to Successful Fundraising**

The NGO *Family, Charity, Health* doing work in a prison community in Buzmein City was inspired by Counterpart training to carry-out a summer fundraising campaign that would help them keep at risk youngsters off the streets and out of drugs. Drawing from the skills learned in training and consultation with Counterpart and with financial support from Counterpart, the leaders of the NGO worked with children at the Social Rehabilitation Center to develop a plan. The plan targeted potential sponsors and designed an interactive program for a summer camp that would integrate the at risk kids with other youngsters from more stable home environments. A team of nine volunteers worked diligently to publicize the event and solicit contributions.

#### **Results:**

- The city mayor's office sponsored 50 youngsters with passes to cover the cost of four weeks at a Buzmein camp sight
- Four commercial organizations collectively donated a total of 5,000,000 manat (approximately \$3125) to cover the cost of all food needed during the one month camp
- The student mentoring program element of the camp was praised publicly by the city mayor who is an active supporter of this NGO

#### **Tashkent Public Education Center Leverages Support for Civics Education**

As a result of Counterpart Consortium training on strategic planning, members of the Tashkent Public Education Center were able to identify a strategy to identify a wider audience to use a Center-published book for middle school students "We and Constitution." Based on the Center's new strategy, the book was recommended by the Institute of Higher qualification of teachers as handbook for students at secondary schools. The Center also translated the book into Uzbek language and printed 10,000 copies.

#### **PUBLIC POLICY/ADVOCACY**

##### **Kazakhstan Human Rights NGO Leader Invited to Brief U.S. Congress**

On May 6, 1999 the United States invited Counterpart grantee Evgeny Zhovtis, Director of the Kazakhstan International Bureau on Human Rights and the Rule of Law to provide a briefing at an open hearing about the deterioration of democracy in Kazakhstan. With a Counterpart grant received in 1997, the NGO has become a leading voice for Kazakstani human rights. Zhovtis has gained international recognition as an outspoken human rights advocate and a highly qualified human rights monitor. In addition to these recent Congress hearings, he has been engaged in several international human rights projects including ones sponsored by the UN and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

##### **Association of Lawyers-Scientists Ensures Inclusion of Human Rights in University Curriculum**

The low level of public awareness about human rights is one of the problems facing Kyrgyz society. One of the reasons causing the problem is the lack of proper education for lawyers in Kyrgyz Universities. Association of Lawyers-Scientists attended Counterpart's training and got a grant, which helped them elaborate a new education program on human rights issues and negotiate it with the headquarters of the

University. As a result, the subject "Human Rights" was included into curricula of the juridical department of the Kyrgyz-Slavic University last year. Currently, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year students who do not pass the examination on the subject will lose eligibility for Master's Degree.

### **Impacts After the Almaty Workshop on Voters' Training**

Addressing the needs of the upcoming elections the NGO community in Kyrgyzstan started to raise the citizens' awareness on voters issues as well as train independent observers for the elections to be held on different levels in the foreseeable future in the Kyrgyz Republic. In the fall 1998 Counterpart Consortium sponsored the travel of several Kyrgyzstani NGOs to participate in the workshop on voters training conducted by the US League of Women Voters through a partnership project with a partner NGO from Kazakhstan. As a result of the workshop

- Center InterBilim trained 200 independent observers who were actively involved in the referendum held in Kyrgyzstan last year. Center InterBilim was nominated as a partner of OSCE for training independent observers for upcoming elections of deputies for local keneshes, Jogorku Kenesh (the Parliament) and the President.
- The rural electorate is often not served by urban NGOs. To address this, the NGO *Women's Support Center* developed a two-day training module for voters in rural areas, based on knowledge and materials acquired at the Almaty workshop. This past quarter, 50 village citizens in two pilot areas were trained in this new module and found the training to be very efficient.

### **Disability Rights and Public Awareness in Turkmenistan**

The rights of the disabled in Turkmenistan are often overlooked by others and unknown to the disabled, themselves. After 15 years of working with the mentally handicapped, the leaders of Special Olympics and the Center of Social Adaptation "Umyt" in Turkmenbashi City carried out a roundtable on the "Defense of the Rights of Disabled Children and their Parents." The event involved a comprehensive range of community stakeholders and resulted in the first open dialogue between the disabled, their families, representatives of NGOs and state structures.

#### **Results:**

- A working group was formed by the participants to plan ways of jointly solving problems related to the rights of the disabled of Turkmenbashi
- Wheelchairs were distributed to two paraplegics by the Department of Social Welfare - they had been denied this privilege for the previous two years
- The representatives from the local health administration agreed to review existing problems with the medical exam procedure process designed to exempt disabled men from military service
- Twenty-three disabled people and their families participated in an activity resulting in concrete improvements to problems using existing laws, renewing their confidence and catalyzing their desire to become more aware of their rights

### **Turkmenistan NGO Gains First Seat on Election Monitoring Committee**

After returning from the USAID-funded advocacy training in the Philippines in March, the leader of the Special Olympics of Turkmenbashi City began researching the laws governing inclusion of NGOs in the upcoming Parliamentary elections slated for December of 1999. She discovered that members of NGOs have the right to participate in election monitoring committees, a fact previously unknown to the NGO community. After several meetings with city officials, Special Olympics is the first grassroots NGO to be included on the election monitoring commission. Through participation in an NGO Forum, Special Olympics has shared their new knowledge and is encouraging other NGOs to exercise their rights and push for increased involvement in upcoming elections.

### **Business Association Advocates for Members in Uzbekistan**

The Chamber of Commerce, a governmental structure networking throughout the country, introduced a mandatory membership for all businesses in the region. Membership fees are quite substantial. Fergana BWA has advocated on behalf of their members to reduce the fee. As a result, the Chamber entry fee for BWA members was decreased by 50%, and all BWA members are exempt from the annual membership fee. The leader of BWA credits their participation in Counterpart's Advocacy seminar for the action that their organization has undertaken.

## **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

### **Social Partnership Mobilizes Youth Activism in Uzbekistan**

Shagala Ecological School, a Counterpart Consortium grantee, organized community ecological activities – cleaning the territory of garbage and other wastes. 140 schoolchildren cleaned a big area in Nukus. The city Hokimiyat provided a garbage cart; Coca-Cola Company provided refreshments, and a private club provided a disco party. The action was both useful for the city and enjoyable for children.

### **Women Gain Needed Skills to Find Work and Improve Self Esteem**

In Turkmenistan, as in most economies, the job market for men is much larger than it is for women. The Junior Achievement Economic Education and Young Entrepreneurs Center conducted surveys to determine which four areas of specialization are most in demand for Turkmen women. With funding from Counterpart, they developed a retraining and employment program in Ashgabad in conjunction with two government structures: the labor exchange and the mayor's office.

As a result of 4 months of intensive training:

- 58 women were trained in basic accounting skills, computers, office management and English
- Eleven of the 58 graduates have been placed in new jobs as a result of the NGOs collaboration with government employment agencies.
- Representatives of the labor commission and mayor's office, while presenting certificates of completion to trainees praised the NGOs program, stating that there are many women who would like to work but not enough places like the Center for them to turn for practical skills which will qualify them for work.

### **NGO Enjoys Partnership with Governments of Three Countries.**

The Association of Physicians of Uzbekistan (APU) is currently part of a three-country project to share medical research from the US, Switzerland and Uzbekistan. The APU is working in close collaboration with the Uzbek Ministry of Health and Ministry of Communication, and local NGO medical specialists working with specialists of foreign countries. TTAP exercises with the APU have indicated a need for the organization to have more ongoing dialogue with government to ensure their support. Skillful facilitation assistance helped the organization realize that cooperation with the government contributes to the sustainability of the NGO. At the recent tele-bridge with all three countries, the President of APU sat with Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan.

## **LEGAL ENVIRONMENT**

### **Advocacy and Public Awareness Campaign Benefits Victims of Stalinist Repression**

Many GULAG camps established to house victims of Stalinist repression were located in Kazakhstan and many former prisoners were released to become permanent residents. Therefore, the community of victims of political persecution is particularly large, and advocacy for their rights is an issue of concern. In 1998 Counterpart awarded a grant to the Astana Association of Victims of Political Repression (AVPR) to advocate for the rights of this group through a public information campaign. As a result, AVPR has established a coalition of similar associations from other Kazakhstan cities, that has successfully lobbied for amendments to Kazakhstani legislation mandating monthly support payments for

victims of communist era repression. In addition, AVPR is raising awareness of the crimes of the Stalinist regime by involving government officials in public events commemorating Memorial Day.

### **Tax Consultants Advocate Their Interests**

Tax consultant is a new profession in the Kyrgyz labor market. Therefore a group of independent tax consultants established a public association for promoting their profession and advocating their interests and rights as well as those of taxpayers. To acquire a legal status for the association and tax consultants, which was not identified before, the NGO drafted the Law about Tax Consultants and submitted it to Mr. Usenov, the deputy of the Kyrgyz Parliament who is the chairman of the Tax Committee. Mr. Usenov approved the draft and recommended the tax consultants get the approval of the Ministry of Finance and Tax Inspection, which otherwise might become an opposition. In January 1999 the NGO executive director attended the workshop on Social Partnership at Counterpart Consortium, at which participants assisted in designing a plan of action for promoting NGO interests and establishing partnership relationships with governmental bodies. Over the next several months the NGO had meetings and negotiations with the Minister of Finance and the Director of the National Tax Inspection. As a result of the cooperation and support provided by the governmental agencies, the new Law on Tax Inspectors was adopted and became effective on May 14, 1999. The Law reinforced the status of tax consultants and their professional association.

### **SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP**

#### **Leading Kazakhstan Environmental NGO Awarded Government Contract to Monitor Vehicle Emissions**

The Governor of Eastern Kazakhstan Oblast has recently undertaken several measures aimed at strengthening regulation of air pollution in Ust-Kamenogorsk, a major industrial city. Counterpart grantee Green Party, a high profile environmental NGO, has been awarded a social contract by the governor's office to monitor vehicle emissions as part of the campaign to reduce emission of air pollutants.

#### **Housing Association and City Government Collaborate to Improve Contract Service Delivery**

Providing housing services has traditionally been the sole realm of the state. As the result, the quality of services provided was poor and there was no mechanism in place to improve them. After the collapse of the state run utility system, the situation became even worse as government quality control ceased. In 1998 and 1999, Counterpart grantee the Almaty Housing Cooperatives Association, together with the City Administration Antimonopoly Committee successfully held a series of tenders for contracts on garbage removal, maintenance of elevators, and water meter installation. It is believed that these competitive bid tenders will encourage competition among utility providers and will increase the quality of service.

#### **Kazakhstan NGO Trains Entrepreneurs to Access Micro-Credit Funds**

Many potential borrowers among the low-income population have no access to the state run micro-credit program because of the lack of information and skills to develop a good business plan. Tekely Business Advisory Center from a small town near Taldykorgan received a grant from Counterpart for seminars to teach low-income population how to apply for a micro-loan. As a result of these seminars conducted in cooperation with a local Akimat a group of 14 participants have developed successful business plans and received credits from a government run micro-credit program to the total amount of 420,000 tenge.

#### **Social Partnership for Children in the Fergana Valley, Uzbekistan**

Following their participation in a Social Partnership seminar, the Namangan Children's Fund conducted a number of activities to gain support of governmental agencies and local businesses. The efforts quickly provided results. The Fund organized a concert for 200 children. The concert hall, granted by a political party, was decorated with the help of Kamolot, Youth Fund and Regional Department of the Ministry of

Education. The concert was followed by a dinner, organized with support of the local food market, and distribution of presents donated by a local factory. This day became a really great holiday for children, thanks to efforts of each sector of the society.

#### **NGO Provides Information to Women in Tajikistan**

NGOs *Khuboni Porsigu* and *Women and Family Governmental Committee*, under a grant from Counterpart, initiated a seminar on the topic "Woman and Her Consciousness" in the Soviet District of Khatlon Oblast, where there are nearly 25,000 women. 200 women representatives from government, including the Chief of the local district's Executive Committee, and CBOs participated in this meeting. *Khuboni Porsigu* distributed 200 women's magazines to participants and the seminar participants recognized this magazine as the first major information source produced and distributed in over 10 years the addressed issues facing women. Participants were very active in discussions on various subjects, including women's property rights and laws affecting women. Participants indicated their frustration with the inability to obtain land, as many lack a male head of household. The NGO's legal expert explained that under the law of Tajikistan women could own land. The Chief of the Executive Committee promised to help them to correct this kind of offense against women and the law. He also invited women to come to him directly and inform him about these sorts of problems.

#### **Turkmenistan NGO Gains Government Recognition with Effective Service Delivery**

There is a need for better-trained social workers in Turkmenistan. To address this problem, the NGO Annageldy has provided free training to 35 nurse aides/social workers representing all regions of the country. Practical application of the training includes the provision of both medical and social services for the homebound -providing a voice to an often-silent minority of citizens. In the course of the 3 months of their Counterpart Consortium sponsored project, Annageldy has identified and forwarded the cases of 600 persons requiring medical and social assistance to the local Ministry of Social Welfare from which over 160 have already received assistance. Through the delivery of effective social services and a strong knowledge of its constituent base, Annageldy has improved collaboration and respect from local government representatives who recognize the value of the NGO's work.

#### **Agreement between Center of Women-Leaders and Sergely Department of National Democratic Party of Uzbekistan. (NDPU)**

The Center of Women Leaders provides many useful seminars for members of the community, but the Center has been unable to leverage strong financial support for its programs. Based on concepts introduced at the Regional Conference on Social Partnership and ongoing consulting from Counterpart, the Center was able to successfully develop a program with the Sergely Department of NDPU. The two organizations are working together to conduct joint training on status of women-leaders, image of businesswomen and essence of the small business, and computer competence. According to the agreement all expenses will be paid by NDPU. The first seminar on businesswomen status was held in June (20 participants, 6 of them were representatives of Makhalla). There is a plan to conduct 12 seminars during this year for different women's groups of different ages, as well as local leaders and youth.

#### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

##### **NGO Documents Increase in Public Awareness of STD Prevention in Rural Kyrgyzstan**

Public awareness of STD prevention and treatment options in Naryn is low, reflecting a lack of health education. Tendesh, an active participant in a range of Counterpart NGO support activities, obtained grant support from a Swiss donor to conduct activities designed to improve public awareness, including an anonymous clinic, seminars, newsletters and a public information media campaign. A survey to determine the immediate impact of the project showed that the number of visits to health facilities to get STD treatment increased significantly from 4 to 25 per month.

### **NGO Combats Unemployment in Remote Area by Supporting Micro-Credit Initiatives**

Kok-Yangak suffers from very high unemployment since the only industry in the town is now operating at only 7% production capacity. The Kok-Yangak City Foundation, a local NGO, has participated in Counterpart trainings, TOTs and other support activities. As a result, new NGO trainers conducted training workshops for 80 unemployed in the region. Forty of attendees received micro credits in the amount of about \$150 each from UNDP.

### **NGO Wins Grant to Support Disabled Children in Kyrgyzstan**

20 disabled children with the cerebral palsy in the remote village of At-Bashy in the Naryn oblast did not have an access to educational facilities and their mothers were deprived of the possibility to work. Both mothers and children were socially and financially vulnerable. Under the assistance of the Naryn NGO Support Center the members of "Ak-Bairak" NGO designed a grant application to support disabled children and their mothers. In February 1999 Know-How Fund from Great Britain helped the NGO to establish a kindergarten unit for 20 disabled children and a sewing co-op for mothers. The Know-How Fund supplied the kindergarten with furniture, bed sheets and toys and equipped the sewing co-op with 11 sewing machines, which totaled to \$3140. As a result of the project, women and children who had been doomed to spend their lives at home, could acquire an opportunity to communicate with each other, find meaning in life and community support. The project was supported by the local government, which cooperatively with the NGO repaired the premises for the co-op and made other required arrangements to open it.

### **Women's NGOs are Opening Up the Pamir Mountains**

Counterpart grantee NGO *Modar* bravely and successfully organized and conducted several roundtables with groups of women in Garm, Darband and Djirgital districts on this subject involving a total of nearly 100 women. *Modar* ensured open dialogue by meeting with a high level UTO military leader to explain the need for and focus of the meetings. Related activities were conducted in the Karategeen Valley by the women's NGOs *Shafqat*, *Ehyo* and *Oshtii*. They successfully conduct 3 workshops on "Human Rights for Women," "Family Protection" and "Women and Elections." The facilitators were recommended by Counterpart as active leaders of women's NGOs and the trainings were planned and supported by the OSCE. It should be noted that most international organizations had discontinued their program activities in this area, due to serious security problems. Transportation was found and arranged by the NGOs themselves without any guarantee of their security. It was a very brave decision to conduct the workshops. For the first time, women of the Karategeen Valley are beginning to learn about their rights under the laws of Tajikistan and relevant international covenants. These NGOs have received extensive training and technical assistance from Counterpart's NGO Support Initiative. Additional follow-up activities are planned and will be carried out in the Karategeen Valley and adjacent areas of the Pamirs by local NGOs with the assistance of Counterpart Consortium.

### **Center Perzent uses PRA to Determine Foreign Assistance Needs in Uzbekistan**

Center Perzent is one of the local organizations responsible for distributing foreign humanitarian aid provided by CHAP and other International organizations. To ensure transparency and needs-based distribution, the Center worked with Counterpart trainers to develop skills in Participatory Rural Appraisals, thereby involving recipient populations at all stages. Participants of the PRA training in Chimbay Region of Karakalpakstan defined criteria for poverty and determined selection criteria for families that will receive humanitarian aid. By surveying 700 farms in Chimbay District, the Center was able to determine which families were most in need.

## C. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

### MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

During this quarter, substantial energy has been devoted to planning for an extension of the program beyond March 2000. A Strategic Planning Workshop was held in Samarkand in May with the participation of key staff from all five countries. A strategic approach for each country was developed along with five overarching themes for the program regionally:

- An Expanded, Strengthened and Localized Civil Society Support Network
- Strengthened Social Partnerships among NGOs, Local Government and Business
- Broader and Stronger Constitutencies for NGOs
- Increased Public Policy Dialogue and Influence
- Supportive Legal and Fiscal Framework

A concept paper for a two year extension of the program is now being written by Counterpart for submission to USAID/CAR/ODT.

The new *Law on Non-governmental, Non-commercial Organizations* was passed by the Parliament of Uzbekistan and signed by President Islam Karimov on April 15. It establishes rules for founding and operating an NGO, while giving them official legal status. Legal experts consider the new law to be among the most progressive in the Central Asian region. This important success caps the culmination of four years of effort by Counterpart and ICNL. Counterpart and ICNL, with assistance from American Bar Association's Central and East European Law Initiative, worked closely with the Uzbek government in drafting the new law. Passage was marked by a reception at Uzbekistan's embassy in Washington, D.C., including Stanley Hosie of Counterpart International, Robert S. Pace of the American-Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce, Lee Irish of the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, Ambassador Sodyq S. Safaev, and George Ingram of USAID.

Counterpart continued its involvement in USAID's Lessons in Transition Exercise during the quarter. Three staff (Joel Levin, David Smith and Lola Abdousalyamova) participated in the debriefing held in Budapest in April at the annual DemNet Conference. This was Counterpart's first opportunity to participate in this conference and it was extremely useful, particularly as an opportunity to learn first hand about the work of USAID's other implementing partners throughout the region and to exchange lessons learned with them.

This quarter saw very only a handful of new grants awarded (for Tajikistan only), as grant funds were largely exhausted. However, extensive monitoring activities were carried out throughout the region on grants currently open (see Attachment 2). With the recent approval of Amendment 15 to our Cooperative Agreement for an additional \$1,007,500.00, a large number of new grants will be made during the upcoming half year.

Aid to Artisans' program was originally slated to end on June 30, 1999. However, as they had a small amount of program funds remaining, Counterpart agreed that ATA could continue selected program activities for two additional months, through August 31. A workplan for this period has been submitted to USAID/CAR/ODT.

### KAZAKHSTAN

Mr. David Smith, Regional Director of Counterpart Consortium, visited Budapest to attend the Lessons Learned conference of Democracy Network Program. During his informative trip he also visited Slovakia

and the Czech Republic to have meetings with other Democracy Network Programs which offer the Counterpart NGO Support Initiative for Central Asia a variety of ideas for our own forward planning.

Counterpart staff in Kazakhstan worked closely in this quarter with ICNL and ANNOK to inform NGOs on the NGO law. A series of roundtable discussions with NGOs in different regions of Kazakhstan resulted in an open public hearing in Parliament, which was facilitated by ICNL and ANNOK, on June 25.

Mr. David Smith visited Atyrau to explore the possibility of extending our program there. Meetings with key stakeholders, such as the Deputy Akim in charge of International Cooperation and Foreign Investments and the local Chevron representative, indicated that Counterpart is well respected and the services provided by Counterpart are needed. Based on these encouraging conversations, Counterpart is committed to securing resources to work in Western Kazakhstan. Counterpart had several discussions with ISAR, which plans to open a USAID funded center, and anticipates close collaboration. It is likely that Counterpart will share office space and use those arrangements to divide our responsibilities appropriately.

Late in the quarter we received conformation of our new funding obligation from USAID including \$61,000 for grants focusing on activities of women, particularly legal rights and violence against women. We'll work closely with USAID to define selection criteria.

ATA ended its contract with the grand-opening of Sheber Aul – financed by Texaco, Peace Corps, and USAID – at which Ambassador Jones spoke. In the process of closing its activities the ATA Regional Director submitted recommendations for integrating ATA target NGOs into the activities of CC program offices.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> NGO Resource Center of Kazakhstan meeting was held on the 25-26 June in Almaty. Representatives of Astana, Shimkent and Almaty Support Centers, together with representatives of Counterpart affiliate offices, discussed the possibilities of future collaboration within a developing network and their role in Consortium activities through March 2000.

USAID recently approved the merger of Zhalgas Center, which had been under the supervision of AED, with Counterpart Almaty Support Center. It is believed that this merger will help develop a full-fledged NGO Support Center in Almaty.

### **Training Highlights**

Counterpart training activities during this period were extremely intensive and productive. They involved a huge number of NGOs & participants in various cities of Kazakhstan such as Karaganda, Taraz, Kostanai, Semipalatinsk, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Leninogorsk and Astana. Almost 80% of all the training needs have been covered thus far in Kazakhstan.

In this quarter Counterpart training attracted attention of the Soros Foundation, which requested training in Project Design for its target group, and Karaganda State University. The fact that a well-known international organization and a state institute see Counterpart as a training expert insures our plans to continue actively providing this service.

Kazakhstan contract trainers Nurzhan Ayazbaev and Elena Vinogradova were invited by Counterpart Turkmenistan to conduct a TOT on Fundraising for the local trainers and coordinators.

The Constituency Development module, which was originally developed in the Kazakhstan office, has been significantly improved during this quarter. Program Coordinators and trainers from the Kazakhstan office conducted a TOT on Constituency Development in Tashkent for Counterpart Coordinators in Central Asia and representatives of NGO Resource Centers. The TOT proved the importance of this

module for all the republics as it helps to devise common strategies to common problems. Improvements made during the TOT were implemented during a follow-up training in Almaty.

### **NGO Support Centers**

#### ***Astana Support Center***

The center staff hosted and facilitated a roundtable discussion on NGO legislation for local NGOs. The materials of this roundtable were forwarded to Ms. Bykovez who presented them at the public hearing on the NGO law held in Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

With the assistance of Center representatives several youth organizations of Kazakhstan, including the Counterpart-supported Coalition of Young Voters, met with the Speaker of Mazhilis, the upper chamber of the Parliament, and Director of Department of Inner Policy. The goal of the meeting was to discuss problems facing young people and the possibility of developing a law regulating issues connected with them.

The center staff participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of NGO resource centers in Almaty. Ms. Omarova shared information she received at the 2<sup>nd</sup> practical conference of resource centers of Russia which took place in Moscow on June 6-12.

#### ***Shimkent Support Center***

In June, the Center facilitated and helped conduct a meeting of local NGOs with the US Ambassador. This meeting was dedicated to the presentation of the Legal Information Center in Shimkent.

The Center has signed a contract with two volunteers who will assist the staff in conducting roundtables, training, collecting information from local NGOs and providing help in all the Center activities.

The center staff participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of NGO resource centers in Almaty.

#### ***Almaty Support Center***

The center started to use a new questionnaire form and new database program, which made the work of updating and enriching the database much more effective. During this quarter 133 questionnaires were processed. There are 701 NGOs in the Kazakhstan database at the moment.

### **KYRGYZSTAN**

Program Coordinators have been drafting resource materials on Coalition-Building for training purposes and distribution among NGOs. Representatives of all 5 Central Asia countries took part in a Regional Conference, held in Bishkek on June 17-18, on establishing a Regional Association of Journalists called "Social Partnership." All the country offices of Counterpart Central Asia contributed funds to support the conference. Registration of the Association is being envisaged. Counterpart has developed draft training requests to Global Training for Development in order to build partnerships between Kyrgyz NGOs, League of Women Voters and Slovak NGOs.

The Country Director and the Coordinator of the IOM project had several appointments with Deputies from Zhogorku Kenesh, Representatives of President and Prime-Minister apparatuses, Deputy Minister of Emergency Situation, and others in order to ensure their participation in the Social Partnership workshops.

The Country Director was invited, on behalf of Counterpart Consortium, to the Prime Minister's office on June 30, 1999 as a potential member of a consulting group for the Kyrgyz Government. The group should develop a matrix of Comprehensive Development Framework, initiated by World Bank.

Kyrgyzstan was chosen as a pilot country among only 10 throughout the world. Unfortunately, Counterpart was the only NGO invited to that meeting.

By initiation of IOM, an expert team was established consisting of public sector and NGO community representatives. The team has developed a framework of the project aimed to develop social partnership on migration management issues in Kyrgyzstan. Counterpart, together with IOM, conducted two social partnership workshops in Bishkek (51 participants) and Osh (41 participants) during May in order to put together public, private and NGO heads and discuss priorities, resources available and mechanisms of fruitful cooperation in future to manage migration processes resulted from emergency situations. The team of experts will develop a strategy for management of migration processes using all the outputs of the workshops for their work. The team extensively prepared the initial materials on migration and emergency issues, which served during the workshop as resource materials. Counterpart's contract trainers helped to moderate the workshops and facilitate some sessions.

UNHCR provided funds (about \$40,000.00) to support a limited number of community projects, which will be developed with the Support Centers' assistance. Counterpart promotes the establishment of grant review committees consisting of 5 members in each Center, which are responsible for selecting, approving and monitoring community development projects funded through the Support Centers. Resulting from three grant committee meetings held in Kara-Balta only three of 13 projects were approved. During a meeting of the Jalalabad grant committee one proposal was approved with conditions, one proposal was rejected, and two proposals were sent for revisions.

### **Training Highlights**

Fifteen training workshops and 12 follow-up training seminars were conducted during the reporting period. 239 participants attended training workshops and 101 NGO representatives took part in follow-up training seminars.

Counterpart PCs and the Kara-Balta Support Center Coordinator, who attended the Constituency Development TOT in Tashkent on May 24- 30, conducted a Constituency Development workshop. This 2-day workshop, held on June 29-30 in Bishkek, helped the NGO community acquire skills to develop a strategy for building NGO constituencies. At the workshop, participants were introduced to tools required to design a strategy for involving more people in decision-making.

Seven new Counterpart Contract Trainers, some of whom speak Kyrgyz, took part in the TOT workshop on methodology held in Issyk-Kul on March 24- April 2 and organized by Golubka, Moscow.

The Colorado League of Women Voters conducted another TOT on election issues in Almaty from March 30- April 2. Four participants from Bishkek attended this TOT. Based on materials from this TOT, three sessions have been designed for the training module on Advocacy.

The Association of Trainers, ASIMO, conducted a TOT on adult methodology for NGOs working with disabled people in Bishkek on May 14-19.

Two manuals "Human Resources Management" and "Resources of Internet" were finalized in Russian. The training manuals "The Development of Constituencies" and three sessions on elections for the "Advocacy" module were drafted in Russian. Materials are being collected both in Russian and English and filed for a resource book on "Constituency Development".

### **Information Network**

- *Database:* To date, the NGO Database contains information on 3248 Central Asian NGOs, including 1328 Kyrgyzstani NGOs. The redesign of the Database' structure was completed in order to improve

the interface and to validate data. The final structure of the Database facilitates access to the database through the web-site. Information on 180 NGOs was updated, 22 new NGO questionnaires were added this quarter.

- *Information Network:* 2,345 user sessions in CANGO.NET were registered in the log file since April 1, 1999, with 28% of the users from the U.S. The average user session was 17 minutes. Currently, the Counterpart Consortium NGO Database (NGODB), Kyrgyzstan NGO Homepages, Links, Listserve and Bulletin Board, and NGO Electronic Library facilities are available through CANGO.NET. At report time, maps of all 5 Central Asian countries were integrated into Web Site, 14 homepages in Russian and 10 homepages in English were added. There are 62 homepages in Russian and 20 homepages in English on Web Site as of June 30, 1999. NGO information page was created to provide visitors with opportunity to maintain online data. Message center for NGOs was created
- *Internet/Email Services:* 85 visitors from 59 NGOs (431 visits) used the Internet Center's facilities during the quarter working with E-mail, Internet and document processing. 46 % of visitors used E-mail, 26 % used Internet, 28 % of visitors worked with documents, 113 consultations for NGOs were delivered, nine visitors used the library during this quarter. One workshop "Internet and E-mail" was conducted on April 28-30. Sixteen people attended this workshop. Currently, 92 E-mail boxes have been opening for NGOs. Five new E-mail boxes for NGOs were added this quarter.

## **NGO Support Centers**

### ***Jalal-Abad Support Center***

Jalal-Abad Support Center (JSC) provided 70 consultations for NGOs, received 144 visitors and made 11 field trips to outlying areas. KBSC provided 176 consultations for NGOs and received 116 visitors. One TTAP and one follow up workshop were conducted.

JSC technical assistance resulted in NGO Altyn Bulak hosting a meeting with the refugee community in Jalal-Abad where 3 people were elected to an Aksakal Soviet to act as an advisory board to oversee the activities of the NGO. The NGO members through MCI (Osh), received one ton of flour to start the bakery. The Aksakal Soviet's first duties would be to select three women from the refugee community who will be employed by the bakery as sellers. JSC covered costs of the registration procedures and flour transportation costs out of grant funds given by UNHCR. It was decided by UNHCR and Counterpart to make a 6,000 soms' loan with 12% interest to encourage refugees, involved to the project, put all their efforts towards the project's sustainability.

Four refugee families together with 5 local families created the NGO named Cholpon Ata. The mission of the NGO is to lobby interests of the refugees and vulnerable local population living in Suzak Rayon. The leader of the NGO is a refugee. This group received a UNDP small credit with 28 % of interest to develop income-generating activities, like stock breeding and growing sunflower. Seventeen workplaces were created. The JASC is providing consultative and information support to this NGO. It is planned to assist this group in designing annual plans.

The roundtable discussion was organized by JASC together with Fund for Support of Legal and Economic Reform from Osh in Jalal-Abad on June 25. Refugee leaders and representatives from Passport Offices of Kok-Jangak and Jalal-Abad discussed citizenship issues. Rules and procedures of acquiring citizenship were explained to refugees. It was decided that the refugees should turn to the deputies of Jogorku Kenesh to assist them in obtaining the citizenship of Kyrgyz Republic.

The Manager of the JASC and the PCV visited Chatkal Rayon to take part in the meeting organized by the Oblast Akimiat. The main goal of the meeting was to identify resources, which would be available for local farmers and small business. Due to remoteness of this area, the local population has had very little support and lives virtually isolated from media. People have no information about international

organizations. The Manager and PCV informed participants about activities of JASC, Counterpart Consortium, UNHCR, and some local NGOs. The Akim of the Chatkal Rayon mentioned that land for housing and irrigated land for farming is available for refugee families, who wish to move there. This option can be considered as additional one for the refugees looking for relocation from Jalal-Abad.

#### ***Kara-Balta Support Center***

At the end of April 1999, the KBSC was registered at the Ministry of Justice as a local non-government organization named the Initiative Support Center "Consulting"(ISCC). Counterpart has secured a long-term presence at #1, Frunzenskiy Str., apt. #28, Kara-Balta, tel./fax. (3133) 25834. ISCC distributed brochures on its activities at the presentation of the new office on May 14, and at the May 21<sup>st</sup> roundtable of local NGOs. Eleven representatives of 8 local NGOs discussed issues of membership and entrance fees as well as information exchange among local NGOs. The entrance fee would be 150 soms, annual membership fee would be 50 soms.---

The operations of the bakery and mini mill in the Sosnovka VI., which the refugee NGO "Hireneso" received from MCI and UNHCR, were monitored by KBSC in order to assist members of "Hireneso" in improving services for the local communities. The monitoring report indicated all record keeping is properly maintained and outlined recommendations for moving forward with the project. The report was submitted to "Hireneso" and UNHCR.

The ISCC provided assistance to refugee NGO "Muk-Suu" to design funding proposals for submission to UNHCR. The Center monitored the implementation of the TTAP, designed in November 1998. TTAP implementation is still behind of schedule because the staff was busy with organizing micro credit groups among refugees for program by MCI.

#### ***Naryn Support Center***

The staff of the Naryn Support Center (NSC) provided 45 consultations for NGOs and received 77 visitors. A long-term presence for the Center was secured at #6A, Moskovskaya Str., apt. #6, Naryn, tel./fax. (3522) 50422, 50533.

The Center helped develop a research questionnaire for the *Nur Jol Ber, Naryn* joint project with the Helsinki Fund entitled "Access to information and education," which will examine six villages of the Naryn Rayon over the course of six months to examine the educational and information resources in the villages.

The NSC TTAP monitoring activities demonstrated that:

- The members of *Women Support Center, Naryn*: continue to work with micro credits. To date, they have worked with 34 credit groups, and 10 new groups are being created in Naryn.
- NGO *Ak-Bayrak, At-Bashy VI* is implementing its project, which focuses on forming a group of disabled children without the opportunity to attend kindergartens. It aimed to create jobs as well for their unemployed mothers. This project was funded by Know How Fund (UK). Currently, 22 disabled children attend the local kindergarten and small sewing co-op has been created in order to employ their mothers. The sewing co-op needs additional transformer and electrical wires in order to avoid electricity cuts off. The NGO has been preparing a second proposal to Know How Fund.
- The local government provided NGO *Tynchtyk* with 12 hectares of land for growing wheat and potatoes. The leader of the NGO informed that they are going to provide two orphans with education grants. Recently, the members of the NGO have distributed about two tons of flour among orphans of Naryn.

## TAJIKISTAN

### Security Situation

The political situation in Tajikistan was tense during much of the past quarter. The Government and United Tajik Opposition (UTO) talks, mediated by the Commission on National Reconciliation (CNR), were suspended due to the flare up of armed conflicts and the apparent non-performance by the Government of key milestones, which were negotiated by CNR and agreed to by the President and UTO Leader. The major sticking points were the approval of UTO candidate for the Minister of Defense and the negotiation and approval of election law and regulations so that it could be placed before the people in a Referendum and, if approved, Parliamentary and Presidential elections scheduled. By the end of June, the Government and UTO had come to an agreement on the election law package to be placed on a Referendum and in the last few days of the month were approved by Parliament and the Referendum scheduled for September 26, 1999. The issue of lack of approval of the UTO candidate for Minister of Defense was not resolved.

Despite these controversies, there were no major events of civil conflict during the quarter. However, it is still clear from the numerous smaller events of conflict between and among armed splinter groups on both Government and UTO sides and from independent groups that the situation demands care in conducting of program operations. The area of the Karategeen Valley and Tawil-dara is still not safe for international operations, although local NGOs have been able to mount trainings and a few small project initiatives. The UN system is evaluating the security situation and attempting to investigate and negotiate the possibility of reviving limited operations.

In general, there is still no basic law and order in most parts of Tajikistan, and there is some evidence of increasing drug trafficking and rumors of drug-related entrepreneurship.

This quarter has seen continuation of a very high level of cooperation and activities between Counterpart and international NGOs, local NGOs and Government. Counterpart's active program of involving local NGOs to assist international NGOs and Government to work together on critical problems related to the peace process, reconciliation and making the transition to social and economic development continued to gain momentum through the quarter.

Several international organizations sought Counterpart's assistance to foster development in their program areas and in efforts to make their programs more relevant to local needs and to build local resources through training and technical assistance. To respond to these needs, Counterpart selected key NGOs and referred them to the international organizations, at times providing technical assistance to the local NGO or participating in support of a collaborative effort.

Through a grant, Counterpart successfully assisted the NGO *International Ecological Association "Women of the East"* to equip and begin operation of a resource center for women in the remote and under-served town of Penjikent in the Zeravshan Valley, between Dushanbe and Khojand.

Thirty women from Government, law-enforcement agencies, NGOs and mass media participated in a workshop on women's issues titled "Problems and Decisions" in Leninabad Oblast. The workshop took place at the lakeside town of Karaikum, organized by the NGO *Association of Business Women*, and the NGO *For Cooperation and Social Progress* in partnership with officials from the Leninabad Oblast government's Women's Committee. General issues discussed included political and economic status of women, their needs and their role(s) in society. Of special interest were important issues such as: reasons for early marriage, unemployment and lack of employment opportunities, forms of discrimination, violence against women and women's rights. The workshop participants emphasized the importance of cooperation of local NGOs with Government in addressing these critical national and local issues through supplying participatory involvement of women in policy-making. Participants recommended that clear leadership and policy changes are needed to:

- strengthen and extend research, development and sharing of material on gender issues;
- stimulate creation and strengthening of women's NGOs to provide outreach, education and involvement of women in civil society;
- establish close contacts and exchange linkages with the Centers of Gender Research in Uzbekistan, Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan; and
- implement program and project initiatives to actively involve women in addressing the critical issues.

### **Training Highlights**

18 workshops were conducted for 369 local participants by trainers referred or trained by Counterpart and funded by international organizations. Those workshops funded by OSCE on the topic *Women's Rights* were partially supported by OSCE and several other international organizations, including Counterpart. Overall, Counterpart and its cadre of Contract Trainers and a growing number of local NGO contractors developed by Counterpart are being recognized and utilized as local experts in many aspects of training and technical assistance.

Counterpart training is reaching out into rural areas at the village level. The NGO *Murod*, contracted by Counterpart to conduct Problem Identification & Strategy Development (*Problem ID*) Workshops and follow-ups in under-served conflict-impacted communities in Khatlon Oblast continued with its good work throughout the quarter in four districts involving over 90 participants. The participants were highly appreciative of the outreach and the interactive and fair nature of the workshop and the facilitators. For many areas, this was the first occasion and opportunity for community and group leaders and local government officials to get together to discuss important local problems and begin to develop community solutions based on local resources in their towns and villages.

Training activities through Counterpart's NGO Support Center in Khurog started in Gorno Badakhshan by the end of the quarter. More Contract Trainers and trainings are needed by NGOs/CBOs, government officials and local leaders on various topics related to the organization and management of NGOs & CBOs as well as project design, proposal writing and social partnerships. Thus far two trainings were conducted in Ishkashim, a district 120 km from Khurog. The program will provide training in at least 4 districts, in cooperation with a Eurasia funded NGO. This area is still very difficult to reach and difficult to operate in. However, the needs are great and Counterpart will double its efforts to assist this under-served area.

Monthly meeting with the Contract trainers in Dushanbe were held at the beginning of the quarter and subsequently on a monthly basis due to high demand for training expertise among IOs. The meetings were helpful in the development of training plans for the following months and identified trainers for the next month's training workshops and special needs. In discussion with all the trainers, it was decided to organize and conduct TOTs:

1. **Advocacy:** It was decided to combine the regular training workshops on advocacy with the TOT on advocacy and to invite other Contract Trainers to it.
2. **Conflict Resolution/Transformation** There were 2 groups scheduled for work on Conflict Resolution -- one to travel to Croatia and discuss with Croatian NGOs involved in conflict resolution and the other in Dushanbe. In addition there is the Counterpart training module on the subject and a module from the NGO *Harmony and Tolerance*. The purpose of the TOT was to work out something unique out of whatever materials- all these modules consist of.
3. **Participatory Methods of Training:** The high demand for skilled trainers made it necessary to increase the local training capacity.
4. In May, a special TOT was suggested and supplied by Counterpart Contract Trainers to OSCE. A TOT on *Interactive Methods of Training* for women trainers was successfully conducted and OSCE

has now a pool of skilled trainer it is using to carry out its ambitious training for rural women in Women's and Family Rights and the Role of Women in the Electoral process.

Counterpart in cooperation with CARE International supplied training in several NGO development modules to members of agricultural groups located in Leninski District. Several local staff members of CARE International also were invited and attended the workshops held during this quarter. It is hoped that cooperative follow-ups can be arranged between CARE and Counterpart to facilitate the better functioning of the agricultural associations, originally set up during the Soviet era to watch-dog quasi-private farming operations.

**List of Workshops funded by International Organizations with Counterpart assistance**

Dates	Training Topics	Location	IO (# participants)
6/99	NGO and Community	Khorog	IRC (17)
6/99	NGO Management	Khorog	IRC (17)
6/99	Strategic Planning	Khorog	IRC (17)
6/99	Project Design	Shahrtuz	SC/UK (27)
6/99	Women Rights	Kolkhozobod	OSCE (20)
6/99	Women Rights	Tursunzoda	OSCE (23)
6/99	Women Rights	Kulak	OSCE ( 22)
5/99	Women Rights	Kabodion	OSCE (25)
5/99	Women Rights	Shahrtuz	OSCE (23)
4/99	NGO and Community	Isfara	IRC (15)
4/99	NGO and Community	Kurghan teppa	SC/US (15)
4/99	NGO and Community	Kurghan Teppa	SC/US (15)
4/99	NGO Management	Isfara	IRC (20)
4/99	NGO Management	Kurghan Teppa	SC/US (19)
4/99	Women Rights	Kurghan Teppa	OSCE (19)
4/99	Women Rights	Kulak	OSCE (20)
4/99	Women Rights	Kolkhozobod	OSCE (25)
4/99	Strategic Planning	Isfara	IRC (20)
	<b>Total : 18 training workshops</b>		<b>(369)</b>

**Information Network**

- Updated database of active local NGOs using the new developed NGO Information Sheet and supplied updated information to all international organizations working in Tajikistan. Assisted some international organizations to find potential partners for implementation of local program initiatives in all of the regions of Tajikistan. Updated Regional database information will be shared with all of the 4 NGO Support Centers to provide local NGOs the opportunity to learn about and to establish relationship links with NGOs in other CA countries and in other parts of Tajikistan.
- Counterpart Consortium Tajikistan's main office and NGO Support Center in Dushanbe converted to a new email domain server to better and more economically support program operations and linkages.
- With the assistance of the Regional Training Director, initiated and completed preliminary negotiations to expand Counterpart Consortium Dushanbe NGO Support Center with a special Internet Orientation and Access Center for NGOs. The Center will have computers linked to the Internet and provide structured learning opportunities for NGOs to access the Internet and to establish their own web sites. Under the proposed agreement, Counterpart Consortium will partner with the local internet provider Telecomm Technologies Ltd.,(TTL) to educate and train local NGOs and their constituency in the use and utility of the Internet as a resource for expanded communication and exchange.

- Counterpart Deputy Director Farhod Bokiev identified and acquired useful materials on Conflict Management and NGO development while in Geneva attending the Working Group on Conflict Resolution held under UNHCR auspices in June. The materials are placed in Counterpart NGO Support Centers and will be shared with local NGOs. The materials on Conflict Management are useful to Counterpart's ongoing efforts to assist local NGOs to work more effectively in this area in order to achieve reconciliation in conflict-affected communities.

### **NGO Support Centers**

By the end of the Quarter, NGO Support Centers in Khojand, Kurghan-teppa and Dushanbe were sustaining high levels of visitors for information (over 50 each per month) and consultations (over 30 each per month). The Khurog NGO Support Center, being set up and run under contract with local NGO *Kalam*, reports visitor interest is growing and is presently up to approximately 25 visits for information and nearly all of them receiving consultation and sign-ups for training assistance for local NGOs, CBOs and community groups. Weather, unreliable telecommunications, road access through hostile uncontrolled areas and transportation problems afflict the Khorog Center and the area. Despite these difficulties, the word is spreading and the service level is growing rapidly.

Counterpart's Khojand NGO Support Center organized and hosted a special meeting of Khojand and Tchkalovsk District NGOs for the staff of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, a donor organization. The primary interest of the donor was to find out which NGOs are working near the Kyrgyzstan border with Tajikistan in the Fergana Valley. They want to identify and encourage potential cross-border partnerships. NGOs were introduced to the current Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan "Conflict Transformation & Tolerance Education" Project due to begin in the south in Khatlon Oblast. The Swiss agency wants to begin a similar program in the North through partnership with the Kyrgyzstan NGO *Harmony & Tolerance*. The proposed project idea would include dealing with disputes over lands, sharing of water resources, law infringement (Customs), drug trafficking and addiction, high levels of poverty, unemployment, deforestation and destruction of watersheds, etc. NGOs shared their activities and ideas regarding possible solutions to these numerous and difficult problems. A number of measures were proposed and discussed. One NGO in particular emphasized the importance of education of the public and the decision makers and proposed a scheme that included: selection of experts, forums involving public, NGOs, local government, media, business, trainings of community assessment and other useful topics for community-based organization infrastructure development and micro-loan programs implementation. This NGO has received training and technical assistance from Counterpart Consortium and was selected by the Swiss agency as their initial partner-designate.

With assistance from Counterpart's Kurghan-teppa NGO Support Center Manager Firuza Rubinova, the leader of NGO *Lady Leaders* pursued a successful effort to make contacts and establish linkages with NGOs in other countries. The NGO leader has been invited to represent Tajikistan and to participate in a three weeks seminar on NGO issues in Israel, to be held in October 1999. The NGO leader is now seriously studying English language in preparation for this learning opportunity.

### **TURKMENISTAN**

This quarter marks the first three months of activities as an officially accredited organization in Turkmenistan. The official status granted by the government has had an overall positive impact on the programming carried out by Counterpart, both by reassuring NGO members that working with Counterpart is condoned by the government, as well as with the government and the population at large. Although there remains a need to continue to build trust in the eyes of the government, Counterpart's staff and those groups working with us now are reassured by the official documentation and can confidently articulate the role of non governmental organizations in society, which is a positive shift in the direction of advocacy and the promotion of civil society resulting from two years of programming in Turkmenistan.

The overwhelming number of requests for training and information in the regions has propelled the Turkmen office to hasten the establishment of resource centers outside of Ashgabad. A strategy was developed this quarter to identify NGOs which will partner with Counterpart in resource centers in two additional regions, Balkhan and Lebap.

The Deputy Governor of Dashoguz region continues to lobby Counterpart requesting the establishment of a strategic partnership to promote the development of NGO activity in that region. A preliminary plan is being developed to focus on the issues of housing associations, public/neighborhood safety, and promotion of educational programs like PTAs and mentoring programs.

The WUA project was fully obligated towards the end of the quarter, enabling the WUA team to expand staffing, programming activities, and complete office set-up of the new office in Turkmenbashi etrap. Located two hours outside of the closest major city, the office now has its own phone line and is visited daily by members of water committees as well as interested community members who are forming community based organizations at the rural level.

Outreach to the Turkmen speaking population has been increased, largely due to the collaborative assistance of local NGOs with Turkmen speaking constituencies. The NGO Management module was translated as an in-kind contribution of one NGO and, this quarter, 56 Turkmen speakers were introduced to the first two training modules, improving the spread of civil society themes in the regions.

Three roundtables and four focus-group meetings were hosted by Counterpart this quarter on the Counterpart premises. In addition to the traditional facilitation of such activities where the Counterpart staff plays the role of facilitator, the staff has actively encouraged NGOs to incorporate such events into their own grant projects as well as regular activities. As a result, four grantees conducted their own roundtables without the assistance of Counterpart staff. As more and more NGOs are becoming comfortable with hosting public speaking events, Counterpart staff members with facilitation skills are being requested to run such events on behalf of other international organizations such as Tacis and the UN. This is a positive evolution the increase and diversity of public forums on civil society topics.

## **Training Highlights**

### ***Training of Trainers***

In response to the continued increase in requests for training in Turkmenbashi etrap, Dashoguz region, another TOT in NGO and Community was conducted. The successful TOT was given in the Turkmen language and resulted in seven new contract trainers from the local community who are able to carry-out the module on their own on an as-needed basis. This not only reduces the dependence of the regional office on Ashgabad trainers, but also brings sustainable development skills to the village level.

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

In an effort to develop a sense of project ownership and a more locally-driven programming agenda, four informal staff development workshops were held during the quarter. Strategic planning sessions related to proposal development, workplan and performance plan creation and targeting served as appropriate sounding boards for staff opinions and provided an opportunity to assess strengths and weaknesses of staff understanding of programmatic objectives. Topics and themes that were not clear to the staff were explored and the senior management team developed mini-seminars on an as-needed basis to fill in the gaps.

### ***NGO Training***

Requests from NGOs to participate in a broad range of training modules have been a priority for the Turkmen office for the past two quarters. This quarter marks development in this area and 17 training modules have been implemented in Turkmenistan, thus far. The demand for training is an exemplary

reflection of the desire of NGOs for information and skills to improve their ability to sustain activities over the long-term.

102 training sessions have been conducted in Turkmenistan since February of 1998. Training has been implemented by 43 trainers, including 12 trainers from other CA countries. Seventeen training modules have been introduced in Turkmenistan resulting in 228 days of training. To date, 1463 participants (504 outside of Ashgabad) from 195 different NGOs have attended CCT Training in Turkmenistan. Four additional modules (Consulting Skills Development, Training Feedback, Public Education through Media, and Constituency Building) are new for Turkmenistan and will be implemented in the fall.

### **Information Network**

- A new telephone line and dedicated server for remote email access using Windows NT has been installed in the Ashgabad office. The Dashoguz Support Center also uses this mail access and plans are in the works to install a mail server in Dashoguz to enable the NGOs and Turkmenbashi staff to dial into Ashgabad from the regions and receive email through the Ashgabad office. One issue complicating email access from Turkmenbashi is that currently the WUA office cannot call directly from the oblast to Ashgabad. They must use an operator service. They are able, however, to dial all over the region directly. This also adds the possibility to install in the Dashoguz RC the same type of service as in Ashgabad. Alternatives are being considered and the British Embassy has expressed its interest in investing up to \$5,000 in the development of the server and a Turkmen internet link which would enable access to all NGOs in all regions.
- The Turkmenistan training database has been completed and is now being used to produce a variety of reports, putting a greater variety of quantitative information at the fingertips of the PCs and the NGOs.
- The NGO database includes 199 NGOs and has been reviewed and revised on schedule on a quarterly basis. A handful of new initiative groups have been identified and their information will be added to the database once they have been to training.
- The information systems specialist is currently working on revision to the Web Site based on the new design prototype sent by the Bishkek office. This quarter, 50 megabytes of free web space were donated by an NGO "Internet society." Turkmen NGO homepages will be housed there.

### **NGO Support Centers**

#### ***Ashgabad Support Center***

During the second quarter of this year, the visitors roster of the Ashgabad Support Center increased dramatically to 588 visitors due in part to an increase in the quality and quantity of books and handouts available in the library. In addition, 63 individuals (20% of visitors) regularly use the SC computer to send and receive emails, type documents, and conduct research made available on the electronic bulletin board managed by the Information Systems Specialist. The subjects of greatest interest to the NGOs are noticeable based on requests for books and literature on psychology, computers, and legislation.

The Resource Center Manager carries out regular consultations with Center visitors (30% of visitors and conducts weekly internet searches (35% of requests) for NGOs based on information requests that are filled out in questionnaire form. Another popular request of the Center is for the viewing of NGO related videos. Since the SC Manager began a series of video showings during the lunch hour on the last day of training, NGO members have enjoyed a lively brown-bag type of exchange. Two-hundred and four participants have watched civil society videos this quarter, including four videos taken of Turkmen NGO activities. The video showings are an excellent forum for NGOs to share their activities with their peers. Finally, seventeen newspaper articles were published this quarter on the activities of Turkmen NGOs.

#### ***Dashoguz Support Center:***

Although the set up of the Dashoguz Support Center began in March, the funding was not fully obligated until the end of the quarter, therefore set-up is still not entirely complete. Nonetheless, with a minimum amount of furniture and the basic outfittings of a computer, fax and phone/email line, consultations and training have already begun. The Support Center manager spent much of the first two months scouting the city for interest groups and conducting an assessment of the existing initiative groups in the area. Through meetings with NGOs and local government representatives, two target initiative groups have been identified: Trieria, which supports a vulnerable group of hemophiliacs and blood diseased people in Dashoguz city and the region, and Ynjal, which is planning to establish a school for nurses aides to assist the elderly and handicapped.

This quarter, two trainings took place in the Center, "NGO and Community" and "Project Design". The RC Manager is now certified to train in these topics and a second RC assistant is being recruited and will eventually be the second local trainer. The Resource Center has quickly become an information source for other international organizations, and the RC manager was invited to attend a 3 day seminar organized by the Central Bank of Turkmenistan on the theme of new credits for entrepreneurs through EBRD financing. The RC manager has also facilitated the visits of and provided services to foreign organizations including USAID and the British Foreign Ministry.

## **UZBEKISTAN**

### **Training Highlights**

Following Counterpart Uzbekistan's increased focus upon community-based social partnerships, most of our activity in this quarter was directed at completing the preliminary steps and/or meeting primary indicators for this new initiative. In addition to our regular training activity, a workshop was specifically designed for a mixed audience of journalists, businesspeople and officials that was adapted from Counterpart's workshop, "NGO and Community." Four such seminars were conducted in Tashkent, Bukhara, Kokand and Nukus for 45 representatives of makhalla committees and 15 journalists. Counterpart used its Constituency Building staff and expertise to conduct adapted training "NGO and Community" for journalists followed by a roundtable with NGO representatives.

Following these seminars, an adapted training seminar in Participatory Community Needs Assessment was conducted with application of PRA methodology. Two PRA workshops were conducted for the same group of participants in Bukhara and Kokand. Counterpart Uzbekistan has now conducted a significant number of PRA seminars across the country, and we are convinced of its importance in our training repertoire. Not only are PRA exercises a key element in our upcoming community based social partnership (CBSP) program, but they have proven to be a "saleable" item, with Counterpart staff having provided the seminars for paying customers, among them UNDP and Abt Associates.

Intensive training and technical assistance was provided for the republic-wide membership of the "Tadbirkor Ayol" Association of Businesswomen, in conjunction with Counterpart International's LEAD Program. Over the past quarter 11 trainings have been conducted focusing on on governance for the same number of Branches of BWA in regions, with follow-up TTAP exercises to determine levels of overall performance improvement and future training needs.

On May 25-28 a regional TOT in "Constituency Development" was conducted in Tashkent by Kazakh trainers for 15 Counterpart Consortium staff members in Central Asia. The final training manual is currently being compiled, pending comments and suggestions from the trainers and participants. A "Constituency Building" training was conducted for Counterpart staff and contract trainers in Uzbekistan on June 28-29.

Counterpart has started developing skills, including adult training methodology, for a group of 12 new trainers who will conduct Counterpart trainings in the local languages of Uzbekistan (Uzbek and Karakalpak).

Under the "community outreach" rubric, a training seminar/TOT in "Project Cycle Management", was conducted jointly with UK-based INTRAC in June.

### ***Staff Development***

Two members of Counterpart Uzbekistan's Tashkent program staff, Deputy Director Lola Abdusalyamova and NGOSC Coordinator Anika Airapetyants, have been participating in the extended series of training seminars offered in Kyrgyzstan by INTRAC, the aim of which is to hone the skills of staff working in NGO support organizations.

In April, Lola Abdusalyamova, Deputy Director, attended the Sixth Democracy Network/NGO Development Program Director's Meeting in Budapest. After this meeting she also visited a number of Slovak NGOs such as NOS, Slovak Foundation, and SAIA (Slovak Academic Information Agency-Service Center for the Third Sector).

In May, Financial Manager Khamid Kashaev participated in a CIS Conference on Micro-finance and Micro-insurance that took place in Moscow on organized by Norwegian Refugee Council

Counterpart staff have been involved in various trainings throughout the region, including a three day trip to Kyrgyzstan to exchange experiences and lessons learned with Kyrgyz NGOs, a Peace Corps sponsored seminar on "Short-Term and Long-Term Grant Management," and the INTRAC-sponsored seminar on Project Cycle Management.

### ***Information Network***

- Counterpart Consortium's database was upgraded both informational and software resources during this quarter. With assistance from our satellite support centers, data on five regional organizations was revised and edited as follows: Karakalpak region – 56 NGOs were revised; Fergana region – 45 NGOs were revised; Bukhara region – 22 NGOs were revised; Andijan region – 15 NGOs were revised; and Samarkand region – 43 NGOs were revised.

### ***NGO Support Centers***

#### ***Nukus Support Center***

Monthly meetings of NGO Club continue to take place the last Friday of every month in the NGO Support Center premises. Attendance ranges from 10-20 NGOs, who invite business people, journalists, local officials, and representatives of international organizations. The typical agenda covers information exchange between NGO participants, an update on Support Center activities, NGO presentations on new programs, presentations by international organizations of new programs and any other subjects deemed relevant.

The Support Center continues to publish a monthly bulletin containing information on recent NGO events. Nearly 100 copies are distributed to local NGOs, authorities, businesses and the general public.

After attending adapted *NGO & Community* workshops for makhallas held in April, a number of partnership projects are in the process of development.

#### ***Kokand Support Center***

Five meetings of the Association of Teachers initiative group were facilitated by the staff of the Kokand Center resulting in the design of the charter by the 15 participants as well as the promise of support from the Governmental Education Agency.

The following roundtables were held with the support of the Kokand NGO Support Center:

- "You and the Third Sector" a roundtable for parents' committees, school #3 that included 11 participants.
- "Looking for the ways of cooperation," a roundtable for makhalla committees that included four makhalla and eight NGO participants.
- "You and the Third Sector," a roundtable for the students of the Pedagogical Institute, that included six participants.
- Roundtable for makhalla chairmen and NGOs, follow-up of adapted *NGO & Community* that included ten makhalla, seven NGO and two government participants.

### ***Bukhara Support Center***

With assistance from the Hokimiat of Bukhara City, the Bukhara Informational and Cultural Center received supplementary space to open an NGO Support Center to service the Bukhara Region. Within this quarter, remodeling was completed and a number of training seminars were conducted for makhalla representatives.

Three Bukhara NGOs (BWA, Bukhara Artisan Center and Psychology School) were invited to makhallas to conduct seminars on small business development and conflict resolution for makhalla residents.

The Bukhara NGO Support Center is starting to host monthly meetings of NGOs on the first Saturday of every month. The last one held on 19<sup>th</sup> of June was attended by representatives of ten NGOs. Topics discussed included the new initiative of Bukhara NGOs to create an NGO Board for coordination and support to NGOs and initiative groups in the region.

### ***Tashkent Information Resource Center***

The Tashkent Resource Center is a meeting spot for NGOs. During this quarter environmental NGOs from Tashkent and Tashkent Region conducted regular meetings in the Center, which resulted in the creation of the Ecological Club for Sustainable Development. Ten NGOs, who developed a strategy and major trends of the Club activities, attended the first meeting of Club members.

The number of "Initiative" subscribers outside Uzbekistan has increased. Now, 42 subscribers in the CIS and Mongolia receive "Initiative" via mail, and 11 subscribers in the CIS receive it via e-mail.

The USIS office in Tashkent donated over 500 books in Uzbek language on American history, basics of democracy and economy.

Resource Center Manager Vildana Malyan participated in the Eurasia Foundation sponsored conference "Perspectives and Opportunities of Resource Centers" in Moscow. Malyan visited six NGOs, including the Institute for Civic Society Problems, Glasnost Protection Foundation, Independent Women's Forum, Socio-Environmental Union, Agency of Human Rights Literature, and ISAR Moscow. An agreement on information exchange with the Institute for Civic Society Problems and Independent Women's Forum was reached. The Tashkent Center is now on the e-mail list of those NGOs, and they receive "Initsiativa".

## CONSTITUENCY BUILDING COMPONENT

One of the main goals this quarter for the Constituency Building Staff in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan has been to continue to educate journalists and gain their assistance in publicizing NGO programs in Central Asia. This work has succeeded in garnering support from journalists in all countries behind the idea of NGOs in general and specific NGO activity. An example of this commitment and achievement of our goals is demonstrated in the following chart.

Published Newspaper Articles by Journalists and NGOs								
	April		May		June		Total	
	<i>Goal</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Goal</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Goal</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Goal</i>	<i>Actual</i>
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	8	13	8	8	8	16	24	37
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	8	11	8	10	8	9	24	30
<b>Tajikistan</b>	8	14	8	10	8	12	24	36
<b>Turkmenistan *</b>	-	9	-	5	-	4	-	18
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	8	24	8	12	8	11	24	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>168</b>

\* No goals could be set for Turkmenistan, as CB staff wasn't budgeted in that country.

The number of articles written and published by NGO Leaders and journalists this quarter is 1.75 times our goal. The total is also 31 more than the total articles written and published by Journalists and NGOs (137) in the first quarter of 1999. Please see additional information on media coverage in Attachment 5.

### Work with Journalists Representing all Media

Counterpart interacted with journalists in all five countries to engage their participation in helping to inform the public about the NGO movement in Central Asia. Discussions, meetings, workshops and conferences were also held to strengthen Journalist organizations in each of the countries and regionally.

- Journalists in Kazakhstan were encouraged to be involved in telling the NGO, NGO Law and Social Partnership stories through press conferences, a public hearing, fact sheets, and other NGO events.
- Tajik media representatives learned more about NGO programs through roundtables on NGO issues, a press conference, journalist association round tables and conferences and a Media tea party where journalist association members discussed issues with Editors in Chief of eight leading newspapers.
- In Kyrgyzstan the constituency building staff: held a press briefing on social partnership; organized a discussion club for journalists to hear how NGOs feel the election law should be changed; assisted Country Journalists Association with planning and hosting a Central Asian Conference on Social Partnership; and updated and distributed a list of journalists that write about NGOs.
- Kyrgyzstan has also developed more press releases and less full articles this quarter in an effort to get journalists to take the initiative to produce their own programs and newspaper articles. One result has been that the number of radio programs has almost doubled over the previous quarter.
- Staff in Uzbekistan organized a special "NGO and Community" training for Tashkent journalists to increase their understanding of NGOs and planned a similar training in Kokand and Samarkand. Staff also conducted a TTAP with the Journalists Association for Social Partnership in Uzbekistan to determine how to strengthen their association, planned a seminar for Journalism Students at the State University in September.
- The part-time CB coordinator for broadcast in Uzbekistan has been working intensely with radio and TV journalists to inform them about the work of NGOs. This has resulted in seven times as much TV coverage this quarter as last quarter and nearly four times the radio coverage in the same time period.
- The Turkmen Association of Journalists continued publication and distribution of their newsletter to inform journalists throughout the country about NGO social partnership activities.

### **Importance of Laws to Support Free Association and NGO Activities**

Media coverage of NGO legal issues continued in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan as well as extensive commentary on the adopted, proposed and existing laws in the Regional NGO newsletter.

- The regionally developed Video on NGO law was distributed to 24 TV stations throughout the region.
- Fifty copies of the regional video were made and distributed to NGO Support Centers in all five countries and to key NGOs in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.
- Constituency Building Staff continued to work with NGOs, ICNL staff and journalists in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to continue writing about and producing media coverage in their countries.
- CB staff in Kazakhstan prepared comprehensive articles on the importance of the NGO Law in both Russian and Kazakh. The Russian article ran as a full page in one of the leading private newspapers in Almaty and as a smaller article in one Astana paper. Several other Astana and Almaty newspapers plan to run the article in the near future. The staff continues to work with NGO support centers to market these articles throughout the country.
- Both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> issues of the Regional NGO Newsletter have covered the status and interpretation of the NGO laws in detail in an effort to make NGO leaders and members more aware of the importance and ramifications of existing and new laws.

### **Citizen's Role and Work in Changing Public Policy**

Further development of a regional campaign to inform the public about the role of NGOs in society and how they are changing public policy was carried out. The campaign will be carried out in full force during the next quarter. This quarter CB staff:

- finalized the script and shooting process in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Turkmenistan will not be included in the video due to political problems that such a video could cause NGOs;
- selected and contacted journalists that can assist in planning and conducting the campaign in each country; and
- developed briefing sheets on NGOs and Public Policy to include in local printed campaign materials.

The planning and development of the regional secondary campaign on NGOs role and involvement in the election process was begun in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (this campaign cannot be conducted in Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan because of political reasons). The main emphasis of this campaign will run during the next quarter and run up to and following the elections in those three countries.

Key activities included:

- distributing the Candidate Debate training video to 10 NGO Support Centers and partners who did not previously have a copy;
- initial planning and scripting of the regional video on NGOs and elections;
- working with a coalition of NGOs to organize a "dispute club" on suggested amendments to the Election Law – more than 100 NGO leaders, Government officials and journalists participated in this event;
- in Kyrgyzstan, coordinating a great deal of press coverage for the NGO organized game show "We are Electing and Being Elected;" and
- also in Kyrgyzstan, advising local journalists who covered two Youth and Elections workshops organized by an NGO, which resulted in 7 radio programs and 2 TV programs.

### **Social Partnership Development**

Constituency Building staff, Journalists' Association for Social Partnership in Turkmenistan, NGOs and Journalists throughout the region continue to carry out the Social Partnership Campaign. This topic has become so popular in the local media that it has become a year-round and on-going campaign.

- The Regional video on Social Partnership successes throughout the region was distributed to National TV stations in each country. At the time of this report, It had run two times on National TV in Kyrgyzstan. It will be distributed to TV stations and NGO Support Centers in outlying areas of each country during July.
- Journalists from all five Republics participated in a Regional meeting of the Central Asian Journalist Association "Social Partnership" in June in Bishkek. Eleven members were elected to the Board of Directors and five to the Revision commission. They reviewed and approved the Charter for the association and made plans for future activities. The event was covered in Kyrgyz media in two newspaper articles, four radio reports and six TV reports on three stations.
- The Tajikistan Journalist Association "Social Partnership" conducted three workshops on Social Partnership with a total of 162 people attending and one conference with 60 people attending. They also organized the first branch of the National Association in Khojand.
- The NGO News page of the Regional Newsletter was devoted to Social Partnership Successes in each country.
- Kazakhstan CB staff developed a press conference and press packet featuring the Social Partnership of the Sheber Aul Artisan's Village Grand Opening. They prepared a pre-event release and invitation to journalists through Cangonet and local delivery and prepared stories in Kazakh and Russian on the local business partnership that grew out of this International effort. Over 60 journalists representing about 30 media outlets attended the event resulting in around 30 media hits in local and international media. (One full-page article appeared in the Arizona Daily News in Tucson).

#### **Regional NGO Newsletter**

CB staff continued to guide the development, production and distribution of the Regional NGO Newsletter. The content of the newsletter is based on the topics determined in focus group meetings throughout the region.

- The Advisory Board was named and began their work of suggesting topics, recruiting authors and reviewing drafts to determine the suitability for the audience.
- Country CB Coordinators assisted in the involvement of each country through soliciting articles, working with authors and advisory board members and developing printing and distribution procedures.
- Two issues of the newsletter were developed by the contracting NGO in Russian and distributed through the offices and NGO Support Centers in each of the five countries and through the CANGO net web site.
- Nearly 200 people accessed the English version on the website while the Russian version was accessed 35 times.
- Both issues were also translated into English and distributed to International donor groups, partners and through the CANGO net web site.
- In Kazakhstan 550 copies of the Russian version were distributed to NGOs appearing in the Database and 50 copies to International partners. Both were sent through the post and distributed through Support Centers.
- Kyrgyzstan distributed 132 copies of the Russian version locally in Bishkek and through NGO Support Centers and about 20 English version to partner organizations.
- Turkmenistan distributed 200 copies of the Russian version through their office and Support Center.
- Tajikistan distributed 50 copies of the Russian version through NGO Support Centers
- Uzbekistan is working on a distribution process through NGO support centers, by post and e-mail. They have been encountering downloading problems of the originals.
- The Advisory Board and Staff of the newsletter will develop a sustainability plan and present it to Counterpart for approval over the next few months.

## **Video Production**

Counterpart staff distributed a total of 161 CB produced videos to NGO Support Centers and partner organizations throughout the Region. National and local TV stations were given copies of the two latest productions: NGO and Law and the two Russian programs on Social Partnership. This totaled 43 copies to as many television stations. Additional distribution of the Social Partnership videos will be conducted in July.

The CB team produced the first English language video to test English Production Capability and leverage funding for the continuation of the CB Unit beyond the July 1, 1999 closing date of the program. The staff, planned, budgeted and produced a 12-minute video for Aid to Artisans, USA to document their work and achievements in Central Asia.

An article on the Central Asian Constituency Building Program, Managed by Counterpart Consortium appeared in the Spring Issue of "Give and Take", Journal on Civil Society in Eurasia produced by the Initiative for Social Action and Renewal in Eurasia (ISAR).

## **Difficulties Encountered in Achieving Goals**

Privatization of government media in Kazakhstan continues to make it difficult to get our video programs on National Television without paying large sums of money for broadcast time. This problem has also begun to occur in Kyrgyzstan to a lesser degree.

The Advisor Board for the newsletter has not been as responsive to our NGO contractor as was hoped. We continue to work and guide the process as we try to build the first Regional Advisory board by e-mail.

## **D. NGO TARGET OVERVIEW**

**A complete list of target NGOs for each country can be found in attachment 4.**

### **KAZAKHSTAN**

In this quarter, several changes were made to the list of target NGOs in Kazakhstan. Both additions and deletions were made according to the necessities of NGOs in Counterpart Consortium's package of services. Counterpart Kazakhstan now focuses its attention on 70 NGOs.

To foster a more active collaboration between affiliated recourse centers and more effective information distribution an electronic mail list was created on the basis of Almaty Support Center.

### **KYRGYZSTAN**

Target List Changes

1. NGO "Kyrgyz Committee of Human Rights" was deleted from list "C" – there was forced change of a governing body and staff. New staff doesn't fulfil the mission of the organization.
2. NGO Association «Legal Forum» was deleted from list "C" because did not demonstrate a strong commitment for partnership relationships.
3. Fund of Public Education «Dialog» was deleted from list "C" because it is branch organization of the NGO "Women Congress of Kyrgyzstan".

Following NGOs were added to the list "C":

1. Crisis Center «Umut» . The NGO works very proactive and their members participated in all workshops of Counterpart Consortium. This NGO works against women abuse.

2. Crisis Center «Sezim». The NGO is very proactive. Leader of NGO participated in many workshops of Counterpart Consortium. The main activity is connected to rehabilitation of women suffering from violence.
3. NGO «Shoola», Talas . It's very active NGO in the region. The staff of NGO includes journalists of Talas region. They publish a bulletin devoted to NGOs issues (Appendix 4).

### **TTAPs**

The Program Coordinators (PCs) designed TTAPs for fourteen NGOs during this quarter. One hundred sixty six NGO representatives took part in TTAP workshops.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Ai-Danek, Bishkek                                     | 8. Crossroad TV Club, Bishkek                |
| 2. Union of Afghan Veterans, Osh                         | 9. Umut, Balykchi                            |
| 3. Mekhr Shevkat, Osh                                    | 10. Kut-Bilim, Kara-Koo Village              |
| 4. Fund for Support of Legal and Economical Reforms, Osh | 11. Shoola, Bokombaevo Village               |
| 5. Ata-Jurt, Osh   | 12. Talas PFA, Talas                         |
| 6. Tax Consultants' Chamber, Bishkek                     | 13. Tsirina, Talas                           |
| 7. Employment Promotion Association, Bishkek             | 14. Association <i>Legal Forum</i> , Bishkek |

### **Follow-up workshops**

The PCs conducted twelve follow-up workshops for target NGOs during the reporting period. 101 representatives from twelve NGOs attended those training workshops.

### **Events**

1. The Rural Children Rights Protection Bureau (Bazar-Korgon Rayon, Jalal-Abad Oblast) held the workshop for Kyrgyz NGOs, working on children issues, on June 20-23 in Bazar-Korgon VI. Twenty participants from all over Kyrgyzstan attended this meeting. The purposes of the conference were:

- To establish a network among Kyrgyz NGOs, working on children issues
- To have better understanding of the missions of international children's NGOs
- To promote partnership at the local, national, and international levels

2. The Forum of Women Organizations held the regional conference "Women Movement in XXI century" in Bishkek on April 28-30. There were 70 participants from Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The materials of the conference are being prepared for publication.

### **TAJIKISTAN**

Counterpart Tajikistan is doing some limited targeting of its resources. A group of NGOs has been identified, through the use of TTAPs and the Sustainability Index, as being NGOs with higher capacity. The criteria applied in determining those NGOs selected for more tarried services:

1. NGO mission and experience reflects focus on the peace process as defined by USAID for Counterpart Consortium Tajikistan;
2. NGO shows clear evidence of a strong team in its management (3 or more people active in the NGO in project activities);
3. NGO team members demonstrate and reflect a clear understanding of the roles that NGOs play and their importance in making a civil society;
4. NGO shows evidence of sustainability (as reflected by a mid- or upper-range score on the NGO Sustainability Index: adequate governance, diversified funding sources, willingness to collaborate with other NGOs, financial and operational transparency);
5. Demonstrated ability to work beyond its "home" area or district;
6. Has and continues to engage in strategic planning;

7. Demonstrated ability to reach out and assist other NGOs/CBOs and the public to build constituency on issues.

At present there are fifteen NGOs on the targeted list and the list is reviewed and revised periodically (at least once per quarter). Counterpart Tajikistan is moving in the direction of having two levels of NGOs in the list and criteria are being discussed.

Counterpart PCs visited NGO *Foundation of Assistance to Medical Establishments* as a follow-up after an interactive TTAP. The TTAP was conducted with this NGO in the previous quarter and resulted in the NGO developing a workplan to address identified weaknesses. This health sector NGO achieved significant progress by now having established good working relationships with several international organizations working in the health sector. In addition, 8 new project proposals were prepared and submitted to international donors, 4 articles were published in local newspapers and magazines and the Chairman of Jeleznodorojny district's Executive Committee has put a car at NGO disposal for project operations. NGO conducted a workshop and 2 round tables for 20 leaders of medical NGOs to address issues of medical qualifications, issues of public health care and NGO participation in this process of improving standards and policies in the health care field. The Office of the President of Tajikistan asked this NGO to render additional medical assistance to the "Russian Community" in Tajikistan. . NGO is still working on establishment of a working Board of Directors to assist in management and governance.

A TTAP was conducted with NGO *Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives*. The organization mission is primarily informational support for NGOs on civil issues, conducting trainings and round-tables and presenting ecological programs. The TTAP identified areas of organizational strength and weakness. During the discussion it was found out that the organization is especially weak in its relations with the government and in its governance.

TTAP were conducted with NGO *Umed Charity Foundation*, a Counterpart grantee. The mission of the organization is providing medical and social services to refugees, internally displaced people in Gulbutta Guzar. During the discussion the primary weaknesses of the organization were found to be financial sustainability and governance.

#### **TURKMENISTAN**

The Turkmenistan program continues to focus on a targeted group of 20 NGOs to receive focused support over the duration of the project. The targeting strategy initially involves conducting TTAPS of the existing grantees, as they tend to be the NGOs with the strongest capacity and potential for sustainability at this early stage of civil society development in Turkmenistan.

TTAPs were conducted with six target NGOs. As the staff becomes more skilled at facilitating the self-evaluation process of the exercise, the results are revealing that both staff and NGOs are more comfortable with the TTAP and understand the value in honesty, openness and really delving into the issues that are discussed. Whereas, several months ago when the TTAP was introduced, NGOs were suspicious of it and declined to go through it. Now, after more than twenty TTAPs have been conducted, the word of mouth is spreading to other NGOs and they realize that the TTAP actually results in more targeted assistance based on each NGOs real self-identified needs.

#### **UZBEKISTAN**

In this quarter, several changes were made to our target list of NGOs. The Uzbek Association of Journalists was added to the list, while the Association of Auditors and Accountants was taken out of the list, because of their proven financial sustainability and the potential for independent development.

Within this quarter TTAP exercises were conducted with the Samarkand Center for Handicrafts Development, SABR, and the Association of Journalists of Uzbekistan. Four follow-up training seminars were conducted in Team Building and Conflict Resolution, Strategic Planning, Advocacy, and Public Education through the Media for nine NGOs, including: Ayol; IROSAM; Mekhri Women Society; Business Women Association, Kokand; Umidvorlik Center for Disabled Children and their Families; Women and Society Institute; Open Library of Legal Literature; Tashkent Public Education Center; and Center for Human Rights Studies and Humanitarian Law.

## E. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

### KAZAKHSTAN

- On June 11, program staff organized a meeting for NGOs working with children with Mr. Kevin A. Brown, representative of National Children's Advocacy Center and coordinator of One by One: a Safe Kids/Safe Streets Initiative Program. The following organizations participated at the meeting and expressed their interest in working with this international agency: SATR, Equal to Equal, Association of School Unions, and Children's Time.
- Counterpart staff designed the training in advocacy module, tailored for AED's needs. Counterpart centers will further assist AED in conducting this seminar in major cities of Kazakhstan. The agreement for \$10,000 has been signed between AED and Counterpart to implement this project.
- Counterpart has signed an agreement with CASDIN according to which their Pavlodar office will assist Counterpart activities in this big industrial center.
- NGO resource centers of Counterpart assisted IMCC in conducted conferences on the pension reform in Shimkent and Taraz. It is planned to have at least 10 conferences on this significant for our constituency issue in 10 major cities of Kazakhstan till the end of the year.

### KYRGYZSTAN

- The Country Director had a meeting with Oleg Serezhin, economic affairs officer from the UN on May 10, 1999. They agreed to coordinate efforts with the UN on future projects in Kyrgyzstan regarding NGO development.
- Key staff members had regular e-mail communication with Kathleen Kuehnast from WB regarding project implementation.
- The Country Director took part in the USIS Muskie alumni conference entitled "New Models for Educational and Professional Development" from May 28-30 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. He made a presentation about Counterpart's program in Kyrgyzstan.

### TAJIKISTAN

- Counterpart cooperated with and supplied high levels of training-related assistance to international organizations. First and foremost, Counterpart has continued its advocacy on the part of local NGO capabilities to conduct trainings and manage projects. This quarter and the two previous ones showed a remarkable response from international organizations seeking Counterpart assistance in identifying local NGOs capable of carrying our training and related project work under contract. UNDP continued to use local trainers referred and assisted by Counterpart to provide training workshops for their Community Development Centers (CDCs) in Khatlon Oblast. OSCE was assisted by Counterpart in April to develop training plans for an ambitious program of outreach to rural women, to train them in the understanding and appreciation of their rights and those of their families and their potential role in the electoral process. The consultations and referrals of trainers and able NGOs by Counterpart were very helpful and resulted in a well-launched training program that will continue throughout the next quarter. Using two Counterpart-referred NGO contractors, Save the Children/US renewed the training for its staff in Kurghan-Teppa. Two contract trainers

from Kurghan-Teppa also provided a workshop on “NGO and Community” for them. Two NGOs conducted two training workshops in Khojand for IFRC on *Strategic Planning* and *NGO Management*. The Counterpart training manuals were adjusted by the NGO trainers to make them more relevant to IFRC and the NGO *National Red Crescent* activities and needs.

- Program Coordinator Barno Gaibullaeva attended a meeting in Kurghan-teppa organized by SOROS Foundation to discuss women issues. In attendance were representatives from international organizations – UNDP, OSCE, UNOCHA, and Eurasia Foundation as well as local governmental officials and NGOs and CBOs of Khatlon Oblast area. The goal of the meeting was to inform women from grassroots groups in Khatlon area about the programs of international organizations related to women problems in Tajikistan. Counterpart shared information about supported and services delivered to women’s NGO’s and their projects. Participants’ questions of presenters demonstrated their high interest in implementing projects and supporting community-level activities to address problems of women. The head of the NGO *Umed* presented her project supported by Counterpart and appealed to other participants to be more active and to develop constructive projects on critical problems of women, families and society at large. She especially underlined the use and relevance of the Counterpart NGO Support Center to help and encourage women’s NGOs and their project initiatives.
- Counterpart Consortium Tajikistan Deputy Director Farhod Bokiev attended the UNHCR-funded meeting of the Working Group on Conflict Resolution held in Geneva. At the meeting he represented Tajikistan NGO interests and shared the leadership role that Counterpart has taken in assisting NGOs in establishing effective exchanges with NGOs in other NIS and Central European countries and in cooperatively developing materials for training in skills for different target groups, such as children/youth, women and communities. New contacts were made and good materials were accessed and brought back to Tajikistan for distribution to NGOs through Counterpart’s four NGO Support Centers.
- The Counterpart NGO Support Center in Khojand helped to establish and hosted regular meetings of Coordination Center on Social Partnerships, that included representatives of Government of Leninabad Oblast, local business, media and NGOs. The following agenda items were discussed during the quarter: organizational structure, identification of priority problems for consideration, possible Center activity programs, resources needed and logistical requirements. Thus far the Coordination Center Social Partnerships decided that it will continue to function as a non-formal organization without juridical status, serving as an unofficial forum to discuss problems and vet ideas and potentially useful cooperation and opportunities for collaboration among Government, business and NGO sectors. Counterpart will continue to work with the Center to assist with aspects of social partnership and project design training and advice and technical assistance. Counterpart has been asked and has agreed to continue to host and participate in the monthly meetings.
- The micro-credit program of Save the Children/US, supported by the TASIF/World Bank program, is becoming a local NGO, after two year of activity under SCF/US management and TASIF/WB support. As was previously reported, Counterpart through an NGO contractor provided a series of workshops to the local project staff on NGO development. In the latter part of this quarter Counterpart Kurghan-Teppa NGO Support Center Manager and Counterpart Contract Trainers assisted the group with development and writing of by-laws for formal registration. The new NGO will continue to focus on micro-lending in Khatlon Oblast as a local contractor to TASIF.
- Kurghan-Teppa NGO Support Center Manager Firuza Rubinova conducted monthly interagency meetings with international organizations active in Khatlon Oblast. IOs share their activities and their projects. Regular attendees include representatives from SCF/US, OSCE, WFP, GOD, AAH, UNDP, UNHCR, ACTED, SNI, SCF/UK and Counterpart Consortium. They also share information about security and incidents of civil unrest in the area. These meetings are very useful and Counterpart is an active participant.

## TURKMENISTAN

- A year after Counterpart collaborated with the British Foreign Ministry in the provision of \$15,000 worth of equipment for 11 NGOs, Counterpart presented an evaluation report to the British Ambassador and four members of Parliament who were visiting Ashgabad. The team was very pleased by Counterpart's administration of the project and had many questions related to additional ways that the British government could assist in the development of civil society in Turkmenistan.
- The WUA team has submitted its first report to the New Zealand Embassy in Moscow describing the use and benefit to the community of the \$5000 water delivery truck which was donated by the New Zealand Head of Mission Fund. It is anticipated that the collaboration will be extended to other mini-projects in the future.
- The Country Director and WUA director met with Brian Cox, the Manager of the Network Women's Program Project who indicated that the NWP planned to collaborate with Counterpart and contract Counterpart training for its resource centers which are scheduled to be set-up in the coming quarter.
- Counterpart continues to work closely with the Tacis' SMEDA (Small and Medium Enterprise Development) Program. When the SMEDA Director was forced to leave Turkmenistan on a personal emergency, Counterpart was asked to step in and coordinate an important roundtable introducing eco-NGOs to a team of four experts working on a project called "Inogate." The purpose of the mission was to meet local NGOs whose profile and experience were relevant to the scope of work of the project, namely environmental legislation, and the impact of production and transport of oil and gas as well as related socio-economic issues.
- In June, the Dashoguz RC manager was asked by the British Embassy to accompany the British Ambassador, Mr. Frazier Wilson, on his first official visit to Dashoguz. The issue the most interested the Ambassador was NGO activities in the region, and he requested visits to the RC, WUA office, and two Dashoguz NGOs. The Ambassador also attended a community meeting in Garaul Gala village in which a pricing scheme for water delivery was being discussed. The Dashoguz resource center is quickly being perceived as a critical information point by other international organizations and missions.
- Counterpart responded to a request from the Delegation of the European Commission in Kazakhstan to identify two journalists who would benefit from a week-long journalism conference in Geneva.
- Plans have already begun to collaborate with UNDP by combining Counterpart's housing association project with UNDP's urban project activities in Dashoguz city
- UNFPA and Counterpart continue to collaborate on grant reviews and specialized seminars related to reproductive health
- UNDP's Gender Development Specialist has requested that Counterpart and UNDP prepare a joint strategy with specific joint activities that can be undertaken related to NGOs and gender issues over the next quarter

## UZBEKISTAN

- OSCE collaboration including a meeting with the head of OSCE and four NGOs, a roundtable with Yakub Roushan, Expert on Ecology and Economy, and an introductory meeting with Sabine Fraizer, Expert on Human Dimensions, OSCE.
- In the Fergana Valley OSCE met with the local Counterpart staff and local NGOs to discuss prospects of NGOs interaction with the Government to solve community problems.
- Roundtable with Sabine Fraizer, 12 NGO participants, 2 officials, 1 journalist; Topic: Prospects of NGO interaction with the Government; Result: Agreed that NGOs will prepare written proposals on what NGOs can offer to the Government as joint actions in solving the community problems. Fraizer asked Chuev to gather those proposals for OSCE, which will lay the grounds for the follow-up roundtable of NGOs and Government, which is planned for June.
- OSCE organized a roundtable "Interaction of NGOs and Local Authorities" attended by NGOs, city and regional hokimiat officials, Ministry of Justice officials, makhallas chairmen, quazi NGOs, and

political parties. Agenda: Introduction to the new NGO Law, by Akmal Saidov; NGO registration procedure; Ways of interaction; NGO SC followed-up on the last OSCE roundtable with NGOs concerning their written proposals on interaction with local authorities, and invited NGOs to the given roundtable.

- Alexander Chuev, coordinator of Kokand Support Center, together with a contract-trainer, conducted a specially designed 1-day training seminar for Uzbek NGOs and Peace Corps volunteers who work with those NGOs.
- NGO Support Center assisted in preparation of USAID official mission to Karakalpakstan, Bukhara and Samarkand.
- The Nukus NGO Support Center was presented with a computer and printer from the UNDP office in Karakalpakstan.
- INTRAC cooperated with Counterpart Uzbekistan to conduct a valuable training in Project Cycle Management for Counterpart staff and a selected group of target NGOs. INTRAC also carried out a "mapping" exercise of the NGO sector in Uzbekistan (the results of which are yet to be finally tabulated.)
- Abt Associates requested PRA seminars be conducted in three districts of the Fergana Valley (Besharik, Yazyavan, Kuva). Research was conducted to identify community needs and determine the priorities of Abt Associates' Grant Program to provide socio-economical aid to the population of the given districts of Fergana region.
- Counterpart staff conducted a one-day training in "NGO and Community" for Peace Corps Volunteers.
- Counterpart staff conducted a training seminar for staff members and consultants of TASIF, Dushanbe, on PRA methodology and its employment in TASIF field works within its Micro-Credit Program. This Program encompasses community prior needs assessment, preparation and implementation of infrastructure rehabilitation projects, development of micro-project committees as local community foundations ensuring projects sustainability.
- As result of joint activities of OSCE Uzbekistan and Nukus NGOSC, leaders of four Karakalpak NGOs and a journalist of "Vesty Karakalpakstana" made a 3-days trip to Kyrgyzstan and visited a number of leading Kyrgyz NGOs in Bishkek.
- Following an NGO roundtable with an OSCE expert, which took place on April 21, OSCE sent the leader of "Wild Nature of Aral Sea Region", a Counterpart grantee, to participate in the annual Economical Forum, that was held in Prague in May. The trip was supported by OSI Tashkent.

## F. LEVERAGING

### KAZAKHSTAN

- \$240 from Baspana for training
- \$74 from public organization Garant for training
- \$720 from UNESCO to cover the costs of a mission of Mr. Kambarov, representative of Constituency Building Department, to Paris, France to attend a training course on Journalism.
- Counterpart target NGO "Zhariya" received \$13,000 in tender award from TACIS with assistance of Counterpart Astana Support Center
- \$ 200 from Soros Foundation to register a pensioners' organization in Astana which has been nurtured by Counterpart Astana office.

### KYRGYZSTAN

- Counterpart Consortium made two agreements with World Bank during March 1999. First of them is called "Consultations with the Poor" totaling \$23,540. It is aimed to enable a wide range of poor

people in diverse countries and conditions to share their views in such a way that they can inform and contribute to the concept and content of the World Bank's World Development Report 2000/01. The report will be devoted to Poverty and Development.

- The second project "Network, Poverty and Access in Kyrgyz Republic" was entered into March 31, 1999. The amount allocated is \$11,000. This qualitative study seeks to understand the role of informal social networks as a critical coping mechanism in the Kyrgyz Republic, especially for poor individuals and household.
- Another project was made with UNHCR totaling \$30,000. Under the project "NGO Trust Fund" UNHCR will continue its efforts of strengthening local NGO structures in communities with high concentration of refugees, with the help of international NGOs and a network of NGO Support Centers by awarding grant funds to 4 local NGOs through Counterpart.

#### **TAJIKISTAN**

Contacts were made with the Ministry of Labor Migration Service in regard to potential cooperation in programming targeted at returnees having difficulties in rejoining their communities and obtaining their former homes and properties. Some basic interests in staff training and training and technical assistance were identified and reflected in proposal for funding to the US Department of State. Office of Population, Refugees and Migration.

Meetings involving the Ministry of Education and the contractor NGO *Fidokor* were held regarding the planning and implementation of the Project "Conflict Transformation and Tolerance Education." Funding for this project by USAID was made available in late April, and the project was opened by Counterpart through its contract with *Fidokor* in June.

Meetings were held with:

1. Peace Foundation: ways of cooperation, necessity of the training workshops for their staff, proposals and intentions to take part in the peace building process;
2. UNHCR to discuss joint program interests and potential funding;
3. World Bank, regarding their interest in programming in community participation;
4. Regional Program Officer of UNICEF in regard to potential participation in support of conflict resolution training and education.
5. FOCUS USA Chairman regarding interests in NGO capacity building in the areas of disaster preparedness and response.
6. Sr. Program Officer of Eurasia Foundation regarding new focus of funding on strong NGOs in legal issues and legislative reform.
7. Swiss Agency for Relief and Development

#### **TURKMENISTAN**

- \$150 – NGO Center for Economic Education and Young Entrepreneurs provided space and equipment for Newsletter Development training on June 15-17.
- \$1,728 – UNHCR sponsored the travel and expenses for 4 NGO members and 1 Counterpart staff member, Mr. Yazyglych Chariev, to attend a UNHCR seminar in Tashkent focusing on "NGOs and Community Development" on June 14-15<sup>th</sup>.
- \$3,985 – UNHCR sponsored two Cpart nominated NGO members to participate in a steering group from OSCE member countries in Geneva, Switzerland on June 21-27<sup>th</sup>.
- \$1579 – OSCE's Finnish delegation sponsored one NGO member and the Counterpart Grant Manager, Irina Dedova, to attend the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Gender Issues in Vienna Austria from June 14-15.
- 5,000 manat – 4 Commercial firms donated money for the cost of food at the Buzmein children's summer camp

- \$300 – in-kind contribution from the Economic Business School and Center for Young Entrepreneurs in the form of a training room and the use of five computers for Newsletter Development training
- \$9719.63 (520,000,00 manat at the exchange rate of 5350) in the form of equipment to the NGO Ynam from UNHCR upon referral and recommendation from Counterpart
- \$120 – Free translation into Turkmen of NGO Management module by NGO Achyk Gapy

#### UZBEKISTAN

Counterpart Consortium has an ongoing relationship with UNHCR of Uzbekistan, which supports 3 NGO Centers. The funding from UNHCR leverages the activities that are directly in the mission of Counterpart Consortium in Uzbekistan. Counterpart Consortium's ongoing and on the ground program provides the consistent management necessary for effective support of the centers. The current budget for 1999 is \$40,000 for the 3 centers.

Counterpart Consortium has a number of other areas in which support from other organizations is leveraged. All of these can be found in this report under the "activity overview" and "coordination and cooperation" sections. These include Counterpart Consortium's financial manager attending a seminar partially funded by the Norwegian Refugee Council, cooperation with INTRAC with training seminars and donations of equipment from UNDP.

## II. 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

#### **Building NGO Capacity**

In Kazakhstan, one new NGO, the Creativity Development Center, was registered with five charter members. The creation of this vibrant new NGO by Aid to Artisans Local Coordinator Ms. Ainura Ashirova is a direct result of Aid to Artisans' work in the republic. Distressed that Aid to Artisans was ending its work with artisans in Kazakhstan, Ms. Ashirova and professional colleagues started this NGO in order to continue developing the craft sector and strengthening the links between ATA's partner NGOs around the region.

Also in Kazakhstan, Mr. Bruce Grover, Peace Corps Volunteer assigned to ATA partner NGO Sheber Aul, has noticed a dramatic change in the NGO's governance and community activism over the last year. He comments: "A year ago when I came to the Sheber Aul village and NGO, a Board of Directors meeting consisted of the Peace Corps Volunteer (me), a translator, and one or two Board members. Today Board meetings are regularly attended by not only the five members of the Board, but also by six to ten members of the community, and lively discussion takes place on meaningful village and NGO concerns. I believe this is because with ATA's assistance they have finally seen a promise fulfilled in the construction of the new Sheber Aul Artisan Center."

Representatives of five ATA partner NGOs in Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan as well as several Uzbekistan ATA LEAD Project NGO members participated together in a training on safe and effective use of natural dyes, conducted by ATA consultant Michele Wipplinger and her colleague Arni Litt, with the Turkmen Handicraft Center in Ashgabat. As a result of the training, Turkmen women are now able to safely use dyes and are aware of the health hazards associated with chemical dyes. Providing such health and work safety information is an example of a valuable service that the craft group is providing to its members as well as to the larger community. In addition, the training was so sought after by artisans, that several artisans traveled great distances at their own expense to attend the training. The high demand for such information also demonstrates that the NGO is listening to artisan needs and requests and working with ATA to deliver the requested information to its members.

ATA partner NGOs have learned that strengthening their training skills is an important aspect of building institutional capacity and several NGOs now plan to offer fee-based training as a means to earn NGO revenue. For example, Ms. Kalipa Asanakunova, a member of ATA's Kyrgyz partner NGO Talent Support Fund, recently conducted several training workshops for the Business Women's Association of Uzbekistan and the Turkmen Handicraft Center. In April, Ms. Asanakunova worked with ATA natural dye consultants in order to strengthen her knowledge and skills in that field, and Uzbek partner NGO Meros Handicraft Center is now interested in offering a natural dye training for its members, using Ms. Asanakunova as the trainer. TSF Co-Director Dinara Chochunbaeva has also trained the Turkmen

Handicraft Center on craft NGO functions, structures, and by-laws, and Ms. Maya Aminova of Coordination Center Women's Initiative in Tajikistan has delivered several trainings in Turkmenistan and Kazakstan. These examples demonstrate the ability of ATA partner NGOs to successfully and competently conduct training seminars, a valuable fee-based service contributing to the NGOs' financial sustainability.

### **Partnership, Coalition-Building, and Association Development**

The creation of the new regional association of craft NGOs in Central Asia is a true democracy success story. Artisan representatives of twelve Aid to Artisans partner craft groups formed an association and are in the final stages of formal registration as a Public Fund, under the laws of Kyrgyzstan. The artisans themselves conceived the idea for the association, proceeded with discussions among themselves, organized the regional meetings in which they discussed the issues, chose the officers, engaged an attorney to assist with developing the legal structure and completing formalities, and chose the appropriate legal form after careful and deliberate evaluation of the options. They chose to register as a Public Fund because it allowed membership for the Turkmen craft groups, which are not yet officially registered as NGOs in Turkmenistan, and the artisans felt strongly that they wanted this association to represent their colleagues in all five republics. They selected the Public Fund structure with the understanding by the members that the association would change its juridical status once the representative groups from Turkmenistan attain official registration in their republic. While ATA fostered the regional relationships among artisans of the five republics, and encouraged them to work together and look to each other as peers and professional colleagues with valuable knowledge and experience to share, and while ATA and Counterpart worked together to provide training in team-building and how to create and build an association, it was in fact the artisans who during the process voiced the idea to create an association, and who then acted together on that idea.

In late May, thirty representatives from the five Central Asian republics participated in the fourth meeting of the regional association, held in Almaty. They discussed plans for the future of the association and member organizations within each country. Kazakhstan partner NGO Sheber Aul hosted the representatives for dinner at the teahouse in the new Sheber Aul Artisan Center. Charter association member Ms. Dinara Chochunbaeva, Co-Director of Talent Support Fund in Kyrgyzstan, said: "ATA has made it possible for the artisans to form a regional association. By building the preliminary base and infrastructure, by creating the links between craft organizations, by showing us relationships with outside organizations like PEOPLink, buyers, and other groups, by bringing us together from the different republics for trainings and fairs, ATA has made the opportunity for us to create an association in the region, and to open the path for us to work together in the future without ATA."

### **Social Partnership**

Aid to Artisans worked with Sheber Aul to organize a grand opening ceremony which was held in late May to dedicate the new Sheber Aul Artisan Center, as part of the ATA designed and orchestrated social partnership involving Texaco International, ATA, Counterpart Consortium, USAID, US Peace Corps, Tore Construction Company, Sheber Aul NGO, and the Government of Kazakstan. The US Ambassador to Kazakstan, Richard Jones, spoke at the ceremony, as did Mr. Zamanbek Nurkadirov, Governor of the Almaty Region, and Mr. Edward Verona, Managing Director of Texaco in Kazakstan. The event was well attended by dignitaries from the US and Kazakstan governments, representatives of USAID, Peace Corps, international and local NGOs, the press, and residents of the Sheber Aul village. Of note in this social partnership was the addition of Tore Construction Company, a local firm which not only won the competitive bid to construct the artisan center housing workshops, a teahouse, and a retail shop, but then contributed windows, doors, substantial labor and overhead to the project in the spirit of assisting a local community and following Texaco's lead of good corporate citizenship.

### **Government Relations**

In Kazakhstan, Mr. Zamanbek Nurkadilov, Governor of the Almaty Region, participated in the grand opening ceremony for the new Sheber Aul Artisan Center. In his speech, he announced that the regional government would repair the road leading to the new artisan center. Ms. Tiltash Betuova, Head of the Culture Department of the Almaty Region, and Mr. B.S. Kutpanov, Governor of Karasai Area, also attended the ceremony. The Regional Governor's participation demonstrates the positive collaborative relationship that Sheber Aul has cultivated with the local and regional government.

### **Media/Outreach**

In Uzbekistan, partner NGO Meros Handcraft Center was featured in a fifteen-minute television broadcast. In Kazakhstan, ATA worked closely with Counterpart Consortium Constituency Building staff to invite media and print journalists and photographers to the grand opening ceremony for the Sheber Aul Artisan Center. More than 30 journalists attended the event, resulting in coverage on every Almaty television channel the evening after the event, and in numerous newspapers. Pre-event awareness among the media was so high that a visiting journalist from the *Arizona Daily Star* visited the Sheber Aul village in advance of the event to collect information for a story for the US-based newspaper.

## **C. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW**

### **Building NGO Capacity**

ATA facilitated the work of consultants Michele Wipplinger, Arni Litt, and Lynda Grose with the Turkmen Handicraft Center to offer training in the safe usage of natural dyes and product development and design, providing a total of four weeks of training. Women from NGOs in all five Central Asian republics attended the training, building additional linkages among artisan groups. The training also built the capacity of participating NGOs to provide market analysis to their members, calculate pricing and costing, and improve communication with buyers, all essential tools for achieving financial sustainability as craft NGOs.

### **Partnership, Coalition, and Association Development**

ATA oversaw the formalization and registration of the Central Asia regional artisan association. The association held their fourth meeting in May, including a dinner hosted by Sheber Aul in their new facility. During the quarter, the association laid out plans for its activities over the coming year; their written plan includes an advocacy initiative to lobby local and national governments to promote artisans' interests, training and professional development opportunities, organization of sales opportunities, and newsletter publication.

### **Media / Outreach**

ATA worked with Sheber Aul to organize the Sheber Aul Artisan Center grand opening ceremony, closely coordinating with Counterpart's Constituency Building staff to prepare press materials highlighting the social partnership aspects of the project for the grand opening ceremony. As noted above, the combined efforts resulted in extensive media coverage in English, Russian and Kazakh languages.

### **Financial Sustainability/Leveraging**

With minimal oversight from ATA, Center Bakhyt organized and executed a regional craft fair in May. More than \$26,000 in sales was reported over the two-day selling period, providing much needed income to craft NGOs from all five republics. The regional association will oversee the organization of future regional fairs.

### **Other**

ATA completed all programmatic activities in the region in May. ATA Projects Director Mary Cockram conducted a final oversight and project evaluation trip to the region in May-June. In June, the ATA

Regional Director and Local Program Coordinators disbursed assets, closed ATA's offices, and prepared final field reports.

#### D. NGO TARGET OVERVIEW

##### **KAZAKHSTAN**

###### **Center Bakhyt, Almaty**

In addition to organizing the May craft fair and coordinating the participation of more than 50 craft groups in the fair, Center Bakhyt continued to provide direct market links for other partner NGOs throughout the region through their NGO-managed retail shop in Almaty. The outlet is a vital part of the strategy of building financial sustainability of all craft NGOs in the region, as well as important to maintaining strong relationships between the NGOs throughout Central Asia. Center Bakhyt participated in the regional association meeting in May.

###### **Sheber Aul**

As evidence of the Kazakhstan government's growing respect for the artisans, the Regional Governor invited Sheber Aul NGO to participate in an artisan roundtable for the Almaty region on April 28. Sheber Aul also worked with ATA to carry out the grand opening ceremony for the new Texaco-funded facility. On their own initiative, Sheber Aul members contributed finishing touches to the building project by constructing a fence around the new facility to keep out livestock and building furniture to be used in the new facility. Sheber Aul hosted regional association members for a dinner in their new facility.

##### **KYRGYZSTAN**

###### **Talent Support Fund, Bishkek**

TSF staff and members participated in the trainings organized by the Turkmen Handcraft Center in Ashgabat. TSF member Kalipa Asanakunova served as an assistant trainer to the ATA natural dye consultant, further strengthening her skills and TSF's ability to provide training as a fee for service activity.

In addition, as a result of their participation in the February New York International Gift Fair, TSF received a substantial catalog order in June from Real Goods for felt ottomans. This order will provide income to rural women in Balkanbaeva throughout the summer as well as provide revenue to TSF for coordination of the order. TSF participated in the regional association meeting in May.

##### **TAJIKISTAN**

###### **Coordination Center Women's Initiative, Dushanbe**

NGO leader Maya Aminova participated in the Ashgabat training offered by ATA consultants. She and Kalipa Asanakunova conducted a training workshop together on product quality and improved sewing techniques for Turkmen craftswomen immediately following completion of the natural dye workshop. In Kazakhstan, en route back to Tajikistan from Ashgabat, Ms. Aminova also conducted training for members of ATA's partner NGO in Semipalatinsk, Coordination Center Women's Initiative. The sister NGOs in Dushanbe and Semipalatinsk continued to work closely to produce crafts for a New York International Gift Fair export order. Coordination Center Women's Initiative participated in the regional artisan association meeting in May.

##### **TURKMENISTAN**

###### **Turkmen Handicraft Center, Ashgabad**

The Turkmen Handicraft Center organized two seminars with ATA and hosted training participants from other Central Asia republics who attended the training. The Center also completed export orders, which ATA had written during US and European trade shows in February; these orders provided much-needed income to previously unemployed Turkmen women. The Center also earned fees for managing the export

order, which will contribute to the group's ability to achieve financial sustainability. In addition, the Turkmen Handicraft Center continued providing assistance to vulnerable groups by helping a widow buy medicine for her seriously ill child and participated in the regional association meeting in May.

#### **UZBEKISTAN**

##### **Meros Handcraft Center, Samarkand**

The Meros Center participated in a London exhibition organized by a British organization called Access Central Asia. Meros self-financed a significant part of their participation in the exhibition. Meros also continued to publish their monthly newsletter. They participated in papermaking training in India (see Coordination and Cooperation section) and took part in the regional association meeting in Almaty.

### **E. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION**

- ATA collaborated with the Maryland-based PEOPLink organization to provide training on the use of the Internet by craftspeople, including information on web site creation and e-commerce. Dr. Daniel Salcedo and ATA European marketing consultant Karen Gibbs conducted Internet training seminars and product reviews in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakstan. ATA also made use of Ms. Gibbs' travel to the region to provide a final in-depth export management review with leaders of ATA's Kyrgyz partner Talent Support Fund, as part of TSF's financial sustainability plan. The PEOPLink / ATA training was funded by the Eurasia Foundation.
- ATA organized training for three members of the Meros Handcraft Center (Uzbekistan) on handmade papermaking in Jaipur, India. Paper production is part of the Meros Center's plan for generating employment and achieving long-term financial sustainability. The training was conducted by ATA consultant Alexandra Soteriou, President of the New Jersey-based firm World Paper, Inc. and was funded by the Levi Strauss Co.

### **F. LEVERAGING**

- ATA received \$70,000 from USIA to conduct a Craft Organization Leaders Exchange (COLE) training program together with HandMade in America in North Carolina in July 1999. One of the seven international participants will be Talent Support Fund (Kyrgyzstan) Co-Director Dinara Chochunbaeva. The goal of COLE is to promote sharing of ideas and information among American and international craft organization leaders to strengthen their organizations. Training sessions will focus on two broad topics: 1) organization building: strategic planning, increasing membership, developing member services, identifying and meeting key member needs, effective leadership techniques, and financial sustainability; and 2) product development and marketing. After the US portion of the program is completed, US craft leaders will visit the participants in their home countries to solidify the linkages formed during the training and provide an opportunity for follow-up training.
- Through ATA's independently-financed small grants program, \$3800 in ATA grants were distributed in May to six artisan NGOs in four Central Asian republics for the purchase of equipment and raw materials.

### III. 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

###### **Senate Working Group Releases Draft NGO Law for Public Discussion and Commenting Period**

For over a year, ICNL has been consistently providing material support and actively consulting Senate working group and Senate Legislative Committee drafting a new NGO law. ICNL also proposed and assisted implementing a USIS IV Program whereby the drafters and NGO representatives were sent to the US for training. After all this, an NGO draft law has been prepared and released to the public. ICNL has been assisting not only with drafting, but also moderated a broad discussion of the draft among NGOs and the public at large. ICNL currently works to insure that NGO comments will reach the drafters. It is expected that the final draft will be ready for adoption this Fall.

##### KYRGYZSTAN

###### **Kyrgyzstan Parliament Approves New Law on NGOs**

During the previous year ICNL was able to bring NGOs and parliamentarians together to form one unified working group, which work resulted in drafting the NGO law. However, the final version of the law went through heated discussions between different NGOs during the last three months. With ICNL's assistance appropriate amendments to the draft were prepared by NGOs and submitted to the Parliament. These efforts brought national focus to the NGO legislation.

ICNL continued to foster the relationship between NGOs and government and continually was engaged in drafting and re-drafting this NGO law. Finally, in June, the Kyrgyzstan Parliament passed the NGO law. If implemented properly, this NGO law will be one of the most progressive laws in the entire CIS. The bill currently awaits the signature of the President, which is expected shortly.

##### TAJIKISTAN

###### **ICNL Continues Educational Seminar Series Funded by UNHCR**

ICNL has carried out three of six planned seminars in Tajikistan. The regional seminars will address current and proposed NGO legislation in Tajikistan. The seminars provide a forum for NGO representatives, international organizations and government officials to discuss the current legislation and upcoming initiatives. The seminars were temporarily postponed due to UNHCR financial constraints brought on by the crisis in Kosovo.

In June 1999 the new Civil Code has been adopted by the Tajik Parliament. However, the final official text has not been available to the public yet. The new is waiting to be signed by the President of the Tajikistan.

### **The New Civil Code**

In June 1999, the Tajik Parliament adopted the new Civil Code. The new Civil Code allows existence of different forms of NGOs, such as public associations, foundations, and institutions. ICNL was providing assistance to the drafters. In addition, ICNL moderated a joint work on the draft Civil Code of the prominent leaders of the Tajik NGO sector together with the Ministry of Justice and other government agencies. In cooperation with Counterpart, ICNL moderated broad discussion among NGOs of the draft provisions affecting NGOs. NGOs submitted their recommendations to the drafting group and according to the drafters many of these recommendations were incorporated into the draft. The adoption of the Civil Code is extremely important step in the development of the civil legislation in Tajikistan including the NGO legislation. The final official text has not been available to the public yet. The new is waiting to be signed by the President of the Tajikistan.

### **ICNL Begins Work on Two New Laws**

The Minister of Justice, representatives from Parliament and representatives from the President's Administration have expressed to ICNL's local partner, Muatar Khaidarova, the desire to work on further forms of legislation including a new NGO law and a law on charities. This desire has culminated into the creation of a governmental working group, which will include ICNL as its official consultant. This working group has met five times during this period and will have an acceptable draft NGO law by August 31. A subsequent law on charity is expected to be completed by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **UZBEKISTAN**

#### **Uzbekistan Adopts New Law on NGOs**

After three years of consistent efforts by government officials, local NGOs, and international organizations, the new law On Non-governmental, Non-commercial Organizations of Uzbekistan was adopted by Olyi Majlis on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1999. ICNL played a primary role in this success by raising the issue of new legislation and gaining NGO and government support. ICNL worked directly on the actual law with the drafters, NGOs and the Parliamentary Committee on Legislation. In cooperation with Counterpart and UNDP, ICNL moderated many broad discussions of the draft by NGOs throughout the country and insured that the drafters and parliamentarians will consider NGO comments. In the end, many NGO's recommendations were incorporated into the law.

If implemented properly, the new law On Non-governmental, Non-commercial Organizations of Uzbekistan will markedly improve the legal and regulatory environment for NGOs in Uzbekistan. See more in Objectives 1 and 3.

## **C. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW**

### **KAZAKHSTAN**

ICNL and ANNOK held a round table on potential tax amendments. ICNL provided the analyses and legal materials. ICNL also gave a presentation on the Tax Code and compared it to other tax systems (ie, US). The group consisted of 25 NGO representatives. The round table marks the beginning of ICNL's tax reform initiative in Kazakhstan.

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. 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 is trying to encourage the active participation of dozens of NGOs in the process of discussing

and drafting the NGO law. 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. Three of these meetings have taken place and ICNL has gathered these summations in the form of official suggestions, which ICNL and ANNOK forwarded directly to the Senate working group. The remaining regional meetings will continue throughout the summer.

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

As mentioned in the previous section, ICNL is continuing its work with the Senate Legislative Committee of Kazakhstan in drafting this new NGO law--to be adopted in 1999. This draft will elaborate on the current law, On Public Associations and regulate foundations, institutions, and associations.

Although the Kazakhstan Tax Code creates some tax benefits for charitable organizations, no legislation exists that can identify such organizations. The effect is that many organizations that carryout charitable activity cannot take advantage of existing benefits. Therefore, concurrent with its work on a general NGO law (mentioned above), ICNL is assisting with the drafting of a "charity" law that will define and regulate public benefit organizations. While the general NGO law will regulate the organizational legal forms of NGOs, the charity law will grant a "charitable status" to those organizations that operate for the "public benefit" and carryout charitable activities.

In this effort, ICNL is also continuing its work with USAID-sponsored ARD Checchi and the Ministry of Justice. This drafting process is in an initial phase and will be expanded during the next reporting period. To this time, ICNL has provided laws regulating charities from different countries, an analysis of the Ministry's current draft law and conducted a round table with the Ministry's drafters and ARD Checchi.

### **KYRGYZSTAN**

#### **Consolidation within the NGO sector**

As mentioned in the Projects Impacts section, subsequent to the draft's submission, various NGO representatives from human rights organizations voiced concerns about the draft. These representatives addressed concerns such as potential re-registration and the authority of the government to supervise activities of NGOs. Other concerns were regarding provisions to prevent and solve the conflict of interest issues, other self-regulatory issues. ICNL moderated the open discussion of these issues among NGOs, helped them to draft the appropriate revisions to the draft law, explained and discussed the disputed provisions. Even though the final adopted text of the new NGO law is not released to the public yet, according to some parliamentarians, most NGOs recommendations were incorporated into the final draft.

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

As previously mentioned, ICNL facilitated the creation of a NGO/governmental working group that has drafted a comprehensive and progressive NGO draft law. In June, the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan passed the NGO draft law and it now awaits final signature by the President. As soon as the final text of the Law will be available to the public, ICNL will start assistance with its implementation.

ICNL has been assisting with drafting a law On Charity by the Kyrgyz Lawyers Association. There are two other drafts prepared by groups led by parliamentarians. At the request of the drafters ICNL presented its comments to these drafts. All mentioned drafts require significant revisions in order to comply with international principles of NGO regulation. ICNL will continue assisting to drafters to improve the drafts.

### **Training of Government Officials**

The initial NGO draft law (drafted by the Senate working group) was released in early June for public dissemination and discussion. This draft serves as a solid base for an NGO law. The senators (with ABA and ICNL) held a public hearing whereby NGOs were invited to Astana to give testimony to the Senate Legislative Committee on the current draft. Although the NGOs were critical of the draft, the drafters were open to their comments. These comments were reduced to written form and submitted to the drafters for further review.

ICNL gave an introductory presentation on internationally accepted principles of NGO legislation and raised primary issues for the event. ICNL and its NGO partner, ANNOK, also gave testimony and highlighted other issues. In all, more than 8 large-scale NGOs were able to give official testimony on the draft law. ICNL moderated work between ANNOK and a coalition of NGOs and the Senate Legislative Committee on revising the draft for submission this Fall. ICNL will continue assistance to both parties NGOs and the drafters. Based on what we have seen to date, the draft creates contemporary forms of non-commercial organizations and eliminates many of the current restrictions in registration and regulation.

### **TAJKISTAN**

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

As was stated previously (in the Project Impacts section), ICNL is currently working on two pieces of legislation: a general NGO law and a charity law. ICNL has already been successful in drafting and adopting of a revised law "On Public Associations", new Civil Code and Tax Code.

### **TURKMENISTAN**

The Civil Code came into force starting on March 1, 1999. Last year ICNL provided technical assistance with drafting the new Code's provisions affecting NGO. During the conference "*The Legal and Regulatory Environment for Non-Governmental Organizations*" conducted by ICNL last March, it became clear that NGOs are unaware of their new rights. At the request of NGOs, ICNL prepared the Matrix to compare the outdated provisions of the Law On Public Associations and the new provisions of the Civil Code regulating the same issues. The Civil Code provisions are very progressive and replace adequate provisions of the Law on Public Associations. The Matrix will help NGOs to know and protect their rights. Counterpart and OSCE are taking active part in distributing this Matrix to a broad range of NGOs.

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

Based on meetings with government officials and Tacis, ICNL is currently drafting tax benefits for NGOs. These benefits will potentially be adopted with the new Tax Code this Fall.

### **UZBEKISTAN**

ICNL held meetings with their governmental partners/NGO law drafters in Uzbekistan: A. Saidov of the National Center for Human Rights and M. Gasanov from the Institute of Monitoring Legislation. The end result was a plan for implementation activity. To assist in implementation, ICNL and the drafters will author a short manual of selected texts from the law. The manual will highlight some text of the new law and explain these texts to help with their implementation. This publication will be used in a series of trainings to be held in the Fall. These trainings would also assist in the implementation of the new law by indoctrinating government representatives and NGOs to the new law

In Uzbekistan, follow-up regulations consist of various letters and instructions. With the adoption of a new law, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) necessary must draft implementation instructions. The MoJ finished its version of these instructions and submitted them to the Cabinet of Ministers. As it turns out, they did not accept ICNL's advice and simply turned in the same instructions used for the Public Associations Law. The Cabinet of Ministers seems ready to reject these stale comments out of hand. If

they do accept them, the Institute of Monitoring Legislation plans to file to the Constitutional Court to challenge the use of the provisions. ICNL will continue to monitor the situation and work on these instructions to insure that the law is properly implemented.

ICNL published the new law "On Non-governmental, Non-commercial Organizations of Uzbekistan" in Russian and in English, which are available to all interested parties. ICNL has also completed a summary of the changes (mostly positive) which has been distributed among international and local organizations. Counterpart and other NGO resource centers provided assistance with distributing the mentioned materials. Lastly, ICNL was able to publish several articles in various newspapers and bulletins (English and Russian) analyzing and summarizing the law.

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

In April 1999, Uzbekistan adopted the new law regulating non-governmental, non-commercial organizations. The new law "On Non-governmental, Non-commercial Organizations" (Law on NGOs) will improve the enabling environment for NGOs by easing registration and reporting requirements. See the Project Impacts Section.

### **D. COODINATION AND COOPERATION**

#### **REGIONAL**

##### **US and International Organizations**

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

In addition, ICNL Regional Director, Richard Remias established cooperative relations with the following organizations: USIS; ABA; NDI; Soros Foundation, Eurasia Foundation, the World Bank, TASIC, OSCE, UNHCR, and UNDP.

Richard Remias, met with the regional representatives of Central Asia Eurasia to discuss the various legislative initiatives and potential cooperation between ICNL and Eurasia.

#### **KAZAKHSTAN**

##### **US and International Organizations**

ICNL continues to cooperate with Soros, UNDP, UNHCR, ABA, and USAID's OMT. ICNL also works with the ARD Checchi and USAID representatives concerning the Kazakhstan MoJ.

ICNL has established contact with the OSCE representation in Kazakhstan. OSCE will rely on ICNL assistance in their assessments of NGO legislation.

ICNL has periodically provided information and updates to Kazakhstan donor meetings. ICNL briefs the donors on the legislative initiatives. Present at such meetings are the UNDP, USAID, Mercy Corps, Peace Corps, World Bank, the Dutch Embassy, the Japanese Embassy, UNHCR, Tacis, EU representatives, OSCE, the Soros Foundation, and Counterpart.

Lastly, ICNL has provided critical information to the US Embassy and Ambassador concerning legal norms regulating the freedom of association and the problems faced by NGOs in Kazakhstan. This information was used for ambassadorial meetings with Ministers.

#### **NGOs**

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 of Kazakhstan); the Association of the Invalids Organizations "Zhan"; Women and Law; the NGO "Legal

Initiative: CASDIN; The NGO "Formation of a Tax Culture"; Legal Development of Kazakstan; Pensioners NGO "Pokoleniye; Roman Podoprigora, Higher School of Law "Adilet".

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

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**

##### **US and International Organizations**

ICNL cooperates very effectively with NDI. ICNL also maintains a close working relationship with the officers of the OSCE. ICNL plans to develop new relations with the UK-based INTRAC.

##### **NGOs**

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

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

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**

##### **US and International Organizations**

The Counterpart/ICNL relationship has blossomed into a new NGO law. ICNL has also worked closely the Soros Foundation to identify initiatives and effective assistance programs. Further cooperation and co-funding has been received from UNHCR. ICNL also maintains a cooperative relationship with the Aga Khan Foundation, the Red Cross and ARD Checchi.

##### **NGOs**

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, Tajikistan.

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

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

#### **TURKMENISTAN**

##### **US and International Organizations**

ICNL has already established working relations with USAID/Booz-Allen legislative expert, TACIS (on

drafting new Tax Code), and GTD. ICNL has also worked closely with USAID's office in Turkmenistan. Other international contacts were established with OSCE, UNDP, and UNHCR.

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

Mr. Remias met with officials from the Ministry of Justice and the Minister himself, Chairman of Legislative Committee on Economics and Social Policy, and Chairman of the Legislative Committee. In addition, various deputies and representatives from the Tax Inspectorate were contacted.

#### **UZBEKISTAN**

##### **US and International Organizations**

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, Eurasia, UNDP, and OSCE. The UNHCR and OSI also held international conferences in cooperation with ICNL.

##### **NGOs**

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 in Bukhara, Uzbekistan; "AYOL" Center for Women and Family, located in Samarkand, Uzbekistan; Samarkand Business School, located in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

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

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). ICNL has also established a relationship with Golnara Yoldasheva Deputy from the Olyi Majilis and Director, of the "Healthy Generation" NGO in Uzbekistan. The is a high profile NGO that may actively participate in the working group.

**GRANT-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

## KYRGYZSTAN

This past quarter no additional grants were awarded. The Grant Manager monitored 20 Counterpart grantees and received 14 project reports from them. Eight projects were successfully completed, the project of "Ata-Jurt" was canceled because of disagreement between partners. Another project of "INC" was terminated because of mismanagement issues. The list of NGOs, which were monitored by the Grant Manager:

1. Training Center for Disabled Children, Bishkek
2. Ecoinfocenter, Bishkek
3. Consortium of Environmental NGOs, Bishkek
4. Association of Investment Funds Semetey, Bishkek
5. Youth Right Protection Group, Bishkek
6. Association of Condominiums "Our House", Bishkek
7. Civil Dignity, Bishkek
8. Association of Registrars and Depositaries "Uyim", Bishkek
9. Association of Brokers and Dealers, Bishkek
10. Social Initiatives Fund, Bishkek
11. Association of Lawyers Scientists, Bishkek
12. Dialog, Bishkek
13. Women Congress of Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
14. Junior Achievement Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
15. Bishkek Educational Fund, Bishkek
16. MAK, Issyk-Kul Oblast
17. Rural Women Union, Karakol
18. Talas PFA, Talas
19. Tsirina, Talas Oblast
20. Leader, Karakol

In general the projects implementation is adequate to planned goals and objectives. Association of Brokers and Dealers, Bishkek, made repayment in amount of \$750, because Association was too late with budget amendments, which were not approved.

The list of completed projects:

1. Smoke Free Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
2. Polis, Bishkek
3. Association of Condominiums "Our House", Bishkek
4. Osh Legal Support Center, Osh
5. Consortium of Environmental NGOs, Bishkek
6. Association of Registrars and Depositaries "Uyim", Bishkek
7. Social Initiatives Fund, Bishkek
8. Tsirina, Talas Oblast

## TAJIKISTAN

This past quarter four grants were awarded to Tajikistan NGOs. A description of the grantees and their programs follows

*Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives* - \$6,894 to help this Dushanbe-based group, which has been active in reaching out to conflict impacted areas to assist communities in addressing a variety of problems. The project "From Conflict to Cooperation" is designed to assist people in Vakhsh and Bokhtar Districts of Khatlon Oblast a hard hit area in the South of Tajikistan to work together to solve common problems and to begin the ongoing process of reconciliation. Relevant information on civic education and the rights of individuals and groups under the law will be covered. Other NGOs working in the area will assist this NGO in planning its training and workshop interventions and Counterpart Contract Trainers will be used to provide consultation and training for community groups. Formation of community-based groups and local NGOs will be encouraged and information and materials on subjects of common interest will be produced and distributed throughout the two districts.

**Jahon** - \$7,000 to help this relatively new NGO that was formed to build bridges and foster non-violent alternatives and better understanding on the parts of NGOs, Government and the public of critical civic needs and issues. They have excellent relations with the Parliamentary organizations and have a good track record in mounting successful efforts to educate decision makers on important issues. This project is focused on the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Khatlon Oblast and will involve 80 upper level officers in Workshops to address the need for improved law enforcement and education among militia members that respect the rights of individuals and supports the needs for civil society.

**Ojandai Durashon** - \$7,515 to this relatively new NGO with strong membership and shared leadership of academic and professional people to bring local government and community leaders together to discuss problems and put together strategies to address those of highest priority. The NGO will work in coalition with other NGOs who have worked successfully in these areas and will utilize Counterpart Contract Trainers to carry out training activities. Follow-ups with groups and individuals will be carried out and the effectiveness of the activities and the village strategies will be assessed.

**Ittifok Center for Youth Initiatives** - \$5,130 to this Khojand-based NGO to educate the youth, their families and the public on issues of rights and responsibilities through information and special activities over the last three years. The recent violent events in Khojand have stimulated this NGO to develop this initiative to assist in re-establishing civil society in Khojand. They will train secondary school teachers, provide them with improved materials in Tajik language and involve the media through descriptive articles and coverage. The NGO will involve the local government and Ministry of Education officials in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the project. *Ittifok* is a previous Counterpart grantee and has received technical assistance and training from Counterpart. It is also a regular attendee of the NGO Club meetings held monthly at the Counterpart NGO Support Center in Khojand.

#### **TURKMENISTAN**

This quarter there were no additional grants awarded to local NGOs. Monitoring remains a high priority for the programming staff and twelve NGOs were monitored and evaluated over the last three months. The staff continues to regard monitoring and evaluation as the most valuable element of the grant program. The interaction between the staff and grantees when evaluating performance on grant implementation builds trust between NGOs and Counterpart and increases the credibility of Counterpart staff as they work through challenges faced by the NGOs.

#### **UZBEKISTAN**

This quarter there were no additional grants awarded to local NGOs. Monitoring exercises were carried out with a total of 14 NGO grantees this quarter. Generally all NGOs were visited for more substantial activity control establishment. Also their achievements and needs have been assessed and professional activity has been coordinated. The following groups were visited by our financial and program monitoring team during the quarter:

#### **Tashkent**

- Open Library for Legal Information: Took part on Board of Directors Meeting. Together with representatives of Soros and Eurasia Foundations a free access question was discussed. After negotiations with members of Board of Directors the chairman promised to consider this problem and make appropriate statement.
- Targibot, Copyright Center
- Shod, creative unification
- Women & Society, Institution
- Barkamollik, Center for Development of Family Culture

### **Samarkand**

- AYOL, Resource Center for Women & Children
- IROSAM, International Relations Office
- Meros, Samarkand's craftsmen Association
- Oilam, Club

### **Nukus**

- Center of Farmers – a project plan (non-execution) was defined and a new short-term implementation plan was designed. The deadline for the next monitoring was scheduled
- Perzent, Karakalpak Center for Reproductive Health and Environment – a project plan (non-execution) was defined and a revised implementation plan was submitted and approved. A new monitoring schedule was determined.
- Renaissance, Coalition
- Shagala, Karakalpak Center for Environmental Education
- Wild Nature of Aral Region

**TRAINING MATRIX**

<b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b># of workshops</b>	<b># of NGOs</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
1.	NGO & Community	5	77	105
2.	NGO Management	1	10	19
3.	Project Design	6	77	124
4.	Strategic Planning	3	45	61
5.	Public Education through the Media	2	35	45
6.	Fundraising	3	41	63
7.	Advocacy	2	18	54
8.	Financial Sustainability	1	14	19
9.	Team Building/Conflict Resolution	3	34	56
10.	Social Partnership	1	13	18
11.	Human Resource Management	1	12	19
12.	Constituency Building	3	49	65
13.	Presentation Skills	1	19	26
14.	Governance	1	14	20
15.	Special Trainings (SOC)	2	24	41
	<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>725</b>
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b># of workshops</b>	<b># of NGOs</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
1.	NGO & Community	1	10	18
2.	NGO Management	1	11	14
3.	Project Design	1	8	10
4.	Public Education through the Media	2	20	30
5.	Financial Management	1	16	22
6.	Advocacy	1	12	18
7.	Social Partnership	1	18	21
8.	Governance	2	24	31
9.	Human Resources Management	3	27	49
10.	Constituency Building	1	8	10
11.	Using Internet and E-mail.	1	10	16
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>239</b>
<b>TAJKISTAN</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Type of workshop</b>	<b># of workshops</b>	<b># of NGOs</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
1.	NGO & Community	8	96	121
2.	NGO Management	1	13	19
3.	Project Design	4	56	73
4.	Strategic Planning	3	32	37
5.	Public Education Through the Media	1	13	16
6.	Fundraising	1	16	17
7.	Association Development	1	7	9
8.	Financial Management	2	26	29
9.	Financial Sustainability	2	24	28
10.	Team Building/Conflict Resolution	1	8	14
11.	Human Resource Development	1	13	20
12.	Problem Identification	3	50	66

13.	Advocacy (TOT)	1	8	11
14.	Adult Learning Styles (TOT)	1	13	16
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>476</b>
<b>TURKMENISTAN</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Type of Workshop</b>	<b># of workshops</b>	<b># of NGOs</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
1.	NGO & Community	7	89	116
2.	NGO Management	1	16	17
3.	Project Design	2	23	17
4.	Strategic Planning	1	13	13
5.	Financial Management	1	15	17
6.	Newsletter Development	1	6	11
7.	Fundraising	1	11	12
8.	Association Development	1	16	20
9.	Small Business Development	1	8	17
10.	Team Building/Conflict Resolution	1	14	18
11.	Governance	1	17	17
12.	NGO & Community (TOT in Turkmen)	1	8	7
13.	Fundraising (TOT)	1	12	13
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>295</b>
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Type of workshop</b>	<b># of workshops</b>	<b># of NGOs</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
1.	NGO&Community	5	102*	113*
2.	NGO Management	1	9	13
3.	Project Design	1	2	7
4.	Public Education through the Media	2	24	33
5.	Advocacy	1	8	11
6.	Team Building/Conflict Resolution	1	15	20
7.	Governance	11	31	155
8.	Human Resources Management	2	12	32
9.	TOT Constituency Development	1	5	15
10.	Constituency Development	1	7	15
11.	Special seminar PRA	4	69*	73*
12.	Special seminar INTRAC	1	5	12
13.	Methodology	1	9	12
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>496</b>

\*- includes the number of participants and organizations other than NGOs

**LIST OF TARGET GROUPS**

## KAZAKHSTAN

*Revised in May, 1999*

### A-List of Target NGOs

1. Association of Non-Commercial Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan (ANNOK),  
Almaty
2. Association of School Unions, Almaty
3. Center of Democracy Education "Leader", Almaty

### B-List of Target NGOs

1. Association of Pension Funds, Almaty
  2. Pavlodar Housing Association, Pavlodar
  3. Society 'Diabetes', Taraz
- (Affiliated Resource Centers)*
4. Consulting Center "Zubr", Ust-Kamenogorsk
  5. Eco-Center, Karaganda
  6. Help, Kostanai
  7. International Club "Kiwanis," Taraz

### C-List of Target NGOs

1. 'Ainalayin', Taraz
2. Almaty Helsinki Committee, Almaty
3. Almaty Women' Information Center,  
Almaty
4. Antinar, Almaty
5. Association "Bridge", Almaty
6. Association of Initiative Schools, Almaty
7. Astana Oblast Association of Victims of  
Illegal Repression, Astana
8. Baspana, Almaty
9. Business Women Association of  
Kazakhstan, Almaty
10. Center for Civic Initiatives (CCI), Almaty
11. Center for Conflict Management, Almaty
12. Center for Ecological Education and  
Informing of Population "Kausar", Astana
13. Center of Decorative Applied Arts "Bahyt",  
Almaty
14. Central Asia Journalists' Association,  
Almaty
15. Children's Time, Almaty
16. Consumer's Advocate, Astana
17. Consumer's Rights Protection Society  
"Shield", Stepnogorsk
18. Copyright Association, Almaty
19. Cultural Legal Youth Center (CLYC),  
Almaty
20. Ecological Center "Priishimie",  
Petrovlovsk
21. Ecological Tourism Center "Belovodie",  
Leninogorsk
22. Ecological Union for Information and  
Coordination on Ecological Education  
"Ecos", Kokshetau
23. Ekoproyekt, Almaty
24. Equal-to-Equal, Almaty
25. Feminist League, Almaty
26. Green Party, Ust-Kamenogorsk
27. Information and Research Center for Civic  
Education, Almaty
28. Junior Achievement, Almaty
29. Karaganda Bureau on Human Rights,  
Karaganda
30. Kaspj - Tabigat, Atyrau
31. Kazakhstan Confederation of Free Trade  
Unions of Miners (KCFTUM), Almaty
32. Kazakhstan Association of Food  
Enterprises, Almaty
33. Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human  
Rights and Rule of Law, Shimkent
34. Kostanai Business Women Association,  
Kostanai
35. League of Young Voters, Almaty
36. National Consumers' Rights Protection  
Association, Almaty
37. National Federation of Housing  
Associations, Astana
38. National Housing Association (RAKSP),  
Almaty
39. Parents' Association 'Defending Disabled  
Children with Mental & Physical Disorders',  
Taldy-Korgan

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 40. Pavlodar Business Women Association, Pavlodar   | 49. Soldiers' Mothers Committee, Almaty                                |
| 41. Pensioners' Social & Legal Protection Movement "Pokolenie", Stepnogorsk                             | 50. Soldiers' Mothers Committee, Astana                                |
| 42. Pensioners' Social & Legal Protection Movement "Pokolenie," Almaty                                  | 51. Sootchestvennik, Shymkent  |
| 43. Pensioners' Social & Legal Protection Movement "Pokolenie," Astana                                  | 52. Southern Kazakhstan Bars Association, Shymkent                     |
| 44. Service of Ethnological Monitoring and Early Prevention of Conflicts, Shymkent                      | 53. Special Olympics Kazakhstan (SOK), Almaty                          |
| 45. Sheber Aul, Almaty  | 54. Taraz Business Women Association, Taraz                            |
| 46. Shymkent Business Women Association, Shymkent   | 55. Tax Standards Formation Fund, Almaty                               |
| 47. Social Adaptation & Labor Rehabilitation for Mentally and Physically Disabled Children SATR, Almaty | 56. Union of Handicapped, Almaty                                       |
| 48. Social Project Center "YPPY", Almaty  | 57. Union of Lawyers "Legal Initiative", Almaty                        |
|   | 58. Women' Association for Development and Adaptation "Zharia", Astana |
|   | 59. Women' Voters Coalition, Almaty                                    |
|   | 60. XXI Century, Almaty  |

## KYRGYZSTAN

### A-List of Target NGOs

1. InterBilim, Bishkek
2. Aikyn, Bishkek
3. "Polis", Bishkek
4. "Aibek", Jalal-Abad Oblast
5. Public Fund of Agreement and Tolerance, Bishkek
6. NGO Support Center, Kara-Balta
7. Women's Support Center, Bishkek
8. NGO Support Center, Jalal-Abad
9. NGO Support Center, Naryn

### B-List of Target NGOs

1. Development of Human Dimension (Area), Bishkek
2. BIOM, Bishkek
3. Legal Initiatives Fund, Bishkek
4. Association of Social Workers, Bishkek
5. Alga, Chui Oblast
6. Training Center for Disabled Children, Bishkek
7. Public Center "Leader", Karakol
8. Lawyers of Kyrgyzstan, Association, Bishkek

### C-List of Target NGOs

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Regional Association of Residential Organizations in the Chui Valley "Our Home", Bishkek | 8. Forum of Women NGOs, Bishkek  |
| 2. Association of Dealers and Brokers, Bishkek  | 9. Smoke Free – Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek  |
| 3. Crisis Center "Umut", Bishkek  | 10. "Tendesh", Naryn   |
| 4. Crisis Center "Sezim", Bishkek   | 11. "Bayastan", Naryn  |
| 5. NGO "Shoola", Talas  | 12. Soopker, Naryn   |
| 6. Tree of Life, Bishkek  | 13. Justice, Jalal-Abad  |
| 7. "Ata-Jurt", Osh  | 14. EJIAD, Bishkek   |
|   | 15. Fund of assisting and supporting law and economical reforms in Kyrgyzstan, Osh |

16. Youth Association "Golfstrim", Osh
17. Nookat Association "Chernobyl", Osh Oblast
18. Ecological Medical Center "Tsirina", Talas
19. "Baychechekey", Kara-Balta
20. "Kut Bilim", Issyk-Kul Oblast
21. Umut, Balykchy
22. Youth Ecological Organization "Green house", Karakol
23. Union of rural women, Karakol
24. Association of family physicians, Karakol
25. Charitable Fund "SANITAS", Bishkek
26. Talents Support Fund, Bishkek
27. Educational Complex "Ilim", Bishkek
28. Bishkek Center of social initiatives, Bishkek
29. Public Center of ecological information, Bishkek
30. Bishkek Educational Fund, Bishkek
31. Association on supporting business women, Bishkek
32. Center of young scientists and aspirants, Bishkek
33. National Society of Red Crescent, Bishkek
34. Youth advocating organization, Bishkek
35. Judicial NGO "Citizen Dignity", Bishkek
36. Center of Women Initiatives, Talas
37. "Abshir" Ecological Movement, Osh Oblast
38. Tosh-Bulak Rural Youth Organization, Tosh-Bulak Village
39. NGO "Ai-Danek", Bishkek
40. Talas PFA, Talas
41. Batken PFA, Jalal-Abad Oblast
42. NGO "Ulgu", Jalal-Abad Oblast
43. Bureau of protection rights of rural child, Jalal-Abad Oblast
44. NGO "Aksana", Jalal-Abad
45. Association of specialists of an interactive methods, Bishkek
46. Union of Afghan veterans, Osh
47. Congress of women of Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
48. Chamber of consultants on Taxation, Bishkek
49. Association of Central Asian journalists, Bishkek
50. Association of assistance to employment, Bishkek
51. NGO "TV-crossroad", Bishkek
52. NGO "Semetei", Bishkek
53. Junior Achievement, Bishkek
54. Fund of legal problems, Bishkek
55. NGO "Jez-Oimok", Panfilov Region
56. Bureau of Children's projects, Bishkek
57. Kindness to Women, Aravan
58. NGO "Shoola", Issyk-Kul Oblast

## TAJKISTAN

### A-List of Target NGOs

1. Fidokor, Dushanbe
2. Charity Foundation of Assistance to Medical Establishments, Dushanbe
3. Women's Initiative", Dushanbe
4. Avicenna International Fund of Rehabilitation of Children with Cerebral Palsy/Paralysis, Dushanbe
5. Open Asia, Information and research Center, Dushanbe city
6. CCCID Coordinating Children Center of International Development, Dushanbe
7. Society and Children's Rights, Dushanbe
8. Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives, Dushanbe

### B-List of Target NGOs

1. Chashmai Hayot, Khojand
2. Madad, Khorog
3. Qalam, Khorog
4. Women Voters, Dushanbe
5. Ranginkamon, Khatlon Oblast
6. TajANESMI Association of Independent Electronic Broadcasters, Dushanbe,
7. Murod, Kurgan-teppa & Dushanbe
8. Independent Academy for Children and Youth, Dushanbe,

## **TURKMENISTAN**

### **A-List of Target NGOs**

1. "Keyik Okara", Ashgabad
2. Special Olympics of Turkmenbashy City, Turkmenbashy City
3. "Umyt" Social Adaptation Center, Turkmenbashy City
4. Center of Education and young entrepreneurs, Ashgabad

### **B-List of Target NGOs**

1. "Yashil", Ashgabad
2. Center for cultural heritage and development, Ashgabad
3. Central Asian Association of Journalists, Ashgabad
4. Preventive health and Healthy Lifestyle, Ashgabad
5. Association of Family Physicians, Ashgabad

## **UZBEKISTAN**

### **A-List of Target NGOs**

1. Association of Journalists
2. Center for Studies of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
3. Tashkent Public Education Center
4. "Mekhri" Women's Society
5. "Women and Society"
6. Information and Culture Center, Bukhara
7. The Physicians Association of Uzbekistan
8. Bukhara Artisans' Center
9. Association of private Tourism Business, Bukhara

### **B-List of Target NGOs**

1. Kokand Branch of the *Tadbirkor Ayol* BWA
2. Farmer Centre, Nukus
3. KRIDI Club, Tashkent
4. *Ayol* Center for women and Children, Samarkand
5. *Umidvorlik*, Center for supporting children with limited abilities and their Families
6. Crisis Center SABR, Samarkand
7. Russian Cultural Center, Chirchik

### **C-List of Target NGOs**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Center for women-leaders, Tashkent                    | 9. Nukus Branch of the "Tadbirkor Ayol"                 |
| 2. Association. "For Ecologically Clean Fergana          | 10. Meros Artisans' Ass (ATA) Samarkand                 |
| 3. Samarkand International Communication Center "IROSAM" | 11. Kokand Center for Folk Handicrafts (ATA)            |
| 4. "Matonat" Society for Disabled                        | 12. "Avitsenna" Association of Pediatricians of Bukhara |
| 5. Union for defense of the Aral Sea and Amudarya, Nukus | 13. Tashkent Open Law Library                           |
| 6. "Junior Achievement", Tashkent                        | 14. Center for Family Development "Barkamollik"         |
| 7. "Targibot" Center for Copyrights.                     | 15. Farmer Association "Zamindor"                       |
| 8. "Perzent" Nukus                                       | 16. Wild Nature of the Aral Region                      |

## WATER USER'S ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS

### **Training activities**

Three Turkmen speaking trainers are certified in NGO and Community – two staff for the project and one local NGO representative for the Women's Resource Center. One more local NGO representative attended the TOT but will not be certified until the end of July. Also the Dashoguz Support Center manager was certified also in NGO and Community and was trained to be a trainer in Project Design. This brings the local pool of Turkmen speaking in Dashoguz velayet to four. Additionally one of the Water Users' Association Project staff was trained to be a trainer in the Association Development module. Enhancing local training skills allows Counterpart training to be carried out more and involving residents of the communities where we are working.

A new addition to the repertoire of training offered locally is the Water, Women and Health "mini-training" conducted by the staff health specialist. These three hour mini-training introduces basic hygiene and sanitation themes to women living in communities where the project has assisted in building serdops (drinking water storage cisterns.) The mini-trainings draw on interactive training methods as well as PRA tools to involve women education process of handling the drinking water safely and avoiding diseases transmitted by water. Each session ends with setting an information sharing plan that involves distributing and sharing handouts in the local language and strategies on how and whom to talk to. Feedback is shared at the following meeting to learn what well and how people reacted. The feedback is used to modify and add materials to future mini-trainings.

### **Local Health NGO Initiates Activities**

Through a support grant from Counterpart Consortium, Uchgun ("Spark") will initiate its work in the area of health education related to water. Main activities will be to carry out health education seminars in local villages with the idea to empower local residents with accurate information and practical options for meeting the health needs of their community. The four person group of three midwives and an epidemiologist identified the urgent need to provide alternative health education in their villages as state efforts have been seriously curtailed and rely on only top-down information dissemination. The group will also open a resource center to provide up to date user friendly handouts, videos and consultations.

### **Two Mini-grants Awarded**

Mini-grants for building drinking water storage tanks or "serdops" were awarded to two communities -- Shirvan and Etrap Center 1. In Shirvan the majority of participants in the serdop committee and community meetings are women because the local brick factory closed two years ago and most of the men have migrated out to find other work. The degree of cooperation and straight-forwardness of the local residents have been exceptional. Building began in June and should finish by July. The other mini-grant went to Etrap Center 1 community. It is hoped that this first serdop in the center of the etrap with a population of 12,000 will serve as a model for other communities to follow.

### **Social Partnership Meetings and Roundtables Held**

Much of the activity of the last three months has focused on holding roundtables and social partnership meetings between the water plant management, water truck drivers, local authorities, health authorities and local water committees. Almost weekly there the water plant management has taken the time to talk directly with local residents about the service they have been provided, or lack there of. These meetings have for the first time put the various stakeholders with interests in the water delivery system in the same room to discuss common problems and find common solutions.

For instance, the plant water trucks are filling the six serdops of Garaul Gala and the 1100 participating residents are receiving American water on a regular basis. This is only the result of tireless persistence of the local water committee, which, with the assistance of the WUA staff, pursued the issue of delivery with

the local authorities until they were included in the delivery schedule. Typically the water intended for this community was being diverted to private storage tanks through bribing the driver of the truck. Now, instead of the local deputy farm chief signing for the delivery of the water and allowing the water to end up in the highest bidders private serdop, the local water committee signs for when the driver actually unloads the water to the serdop. This is the first time that direct accountability to the users has been introduced to the delivery system.

### **Significant Visits to the Water Users' Association Project**

In mid-May the water users' association staff and the local water committees had the pleasure of receiving George Ingram, Glenn Anders, Murl Baker, Sean Roberts, all of USIAD as well as the Kumish Bazarova, the deputy governor of Dashouz Velayet. The guests attended a roundtable at which the new fee-for-service water truck was the topic of discussion. Afterwards, they met with representatives from eight communities to ask questions about project activities, becoming water committee members and everyday life in rural Turkmenistan. Before leaving for Nukus, the delegation stopped in the village of Garaul Gala to see the serdops that were installed through Counterpart assistance as well as visit an irrigation dam built through cooperation with Winrock International.

At the end of June, the British Ambassador, Frazier Wilson, made an official visit to Dashouz. The Ambassador was particularly interested in understanding the local context for civil society activities and thus asked the Counterpart NGO Support Center Manager, Serdar Yagmurov, to introduce him to local NGOs and the Water Users' Association activities. During the day, the local staff treated him to a traditional Turkmen lunch served on the floor with mats and pillows. At the lunch, representatives from Uchgun and the Women's Resource Center had a chance to share their experiences of working in the third sector. In a community meeting in Garaul Gala, the Ambassador observed a community decision-making process in action as the community debated and determined the repayment schedule for owning 51% of their serdops. The day concluded with a visit to Summer English Camp initiated and run by the Dashouz Ecology Club located in one of the few forests of the Dashouz region.

### **Community Water Truck Purchased, Registered and Awaiting Clients**

Through the generous support of the New Zealand Embassy in Moscow, the communities of Turkmenbashi etrap are the proud owners of a 7 ton water truck. The truck was presented in an effort to secure a reliable, user-owned means of transporting water to communities participating in the project. The truck will be operated on a fee-for service basis. Communities that have built community serdops may now chose to pay for delivery of "American water" with the proceeds going for the continued operation of the truck, salary for the driver and a member fee for the water users' association. These costs are determined by the users' themselves and the water users' association project staff through roundtable discussions and community meetings. At full operation, the project staff estimates that a population of 5000 to 6000 local residents will be provided with the designated amount of 5 liters per person per day.

### **Water Users Association Conference in Osh**

A local project staff member and an active water committee member from Yalkum collective farm traveled to Osh, Kyrgystan to the water users' association conference. The purpose of the conference was to bring together representatives from water-related NGOs or CBOs and government departments from eight countries as well as international organizations.

# CONSTITUENCY BUILDING ATTACHMENTS

- MEDIA COVERAGE TOTALS
- MONTHLY INFORMATIONAL NEWSLETTERS FOR CENTRAL ASIAN NGOS

**Media Coverage Totals for 1999  
First Half of Year Totals**

	<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Television</b>	<b>Radio</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	73	33	15	<b>121</b>
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	77	44	86	<b>207</b>
<b>Tajikistan</b>	59	46	29	<b>134</b>
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	34	3	3	<b>40</b>
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	93	22	22	<b>137</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>639</b>

**Newspaper Articles**

	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	<b>Tajikistan</b>	<b>Turkmenistan</b>	<b>Uzbekistan</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>January</b>	10	17	8	5	35	<b>75</b>
<b>Feb.</b>	10	10	9	7	5	<b>41</b>
<b>March</b>	16	16	6	5	6	<b>49</b>
<b>April</b>	13	12	14	9	24	<b>72</b>
<b>May</b>	8	13	10	4	12	<b>47</b>
<b>June</b>	16	9	12	4	11	<b>52</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>336</b>

**TV Programs**

	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	<b>Tajikistan</b>	<b>Turkmenistan</b>	<b>Uzbekistan</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>January</b>	5	8	4	-	3	<b>20</b>
<b>February</b>	11	2	12	-	-	<b>25</b>
<b>March</b>	2	4	6	3	2	<b>17</b>
<b>April</b>	1	15	10	-	2	<b>28</b>
<b>May</b>	5	6	6	-	5	<b>22</b>
<b>June</b>	9	9	8	-	10	<b>36</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>148</b>

**Radio Programs**

	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	<b>Tajikistan</b>	<b>Turkmenistan</b>	<b>Uzbekistan</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>January</b>	4	16	3	-	4	<b>27</b>
<b>February</b>	3	4	4	-	-	<b>11</b>
<b>March</b>	2	6	4	3	2	<b>17</b>
<b>April</b>	-	22	5	-	2	<b>29</b>
<b>May</b>	2	18	6	-	2	<b>28</b>
<b>June</b>	4	20	7	-	12	<b>43</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>155</b>

## Media Coverage Comparison

	Newspapers	Television	Radio	Total
Total First Half of '99	336	148	155	639
Total Last Half of '98	352	131	90	573
Gain or Loss	-16	17	65	66

Total Media coverage for the region is up this 6 months from last 6 months by 66 or a total of 11 additional media hits per month in the region:

- Largest gain was in radio programs that went from 90 to 155 for a gain of 65 or 10.8 per month
- Radio programming doubled in Kyrgyzstan moving from 43 to 86 or 7.2 additional programs per month
- Significant gains in both television and radio in Uzbekistan moving from 3 to 22 in Television and 6 to 22 in radio
- Significant gain in radio programs in Tajikistan moving from 15 to 29
- Total television programs in the region rose from 131 to 148 for a gain of 17
- Slight drop in newspaper articles as we worked to increase number of articles produced by journalists and NGOs

### Published Newspaper Articles by Journalists and NGOs

#### *First Quarter 1999*

	January		February		March		Total	
	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual
Kazakhstan	5	9	6	10	7	13	18	32
Kyrgyzstan	5	7	6	7	7	14	18	28
Tajikistan	5	8	6	10	7	6	18	24
Turkmenistan *	-	5	-	7	-	5	-	17
Uzbekistan	5	26	6	5	7	5	18	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>137</b>

#### *Second Quarter 1999*

	April		May		June		Total	
	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual
Kazakhstan	8	13	8	8	8	16	24	37
Kyrgyzstan	8	11	8	10	8	9	24	30
Tajikistan	8	14	8	10	8	12	24	36
Turkmenistan *	-	9	-	5	-	4	-	18
Uzbekistan	8	24	8	12	8	11	24	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>168</b>

\* No goals could be set for Turkmenistan, as we don't have CB staff working with journalists there.

A significant increase in the number of newspaper articles produced by Journalists and NGO leaders occurred during the current quarter over the first quarter this year:

- A gain of 31 articles for the quarter or 10.3 additional articles in the region each month
- Regional goal for articles was exceeded by 72, or an average of 24 articles per month
- Each country exceeded it's goal for the quarter and met their goal for each month
- Uzbekistan nearly doubled their goal for the quarter and tripled it for April
- Kazakhstan doubled their goal for June and Tajikistan exceeded goal by 75% in April

# theory and practice

# NGO

Published by NGO «Zhan» with the help of Counterpart Consortium/USAID

Parliamentaries and NGO leaders are discussing the new legislation about NGO



## Third sector and government work together

Laws to support free association and NGO activities are key to the development of NGOs in any society. The most recent few months have seen work in this area coming to fruition throughout Central Asia. The highlights of legislation affecting NGOs are as follows:

### Kazakhstan

During this year's session the Senate legislative Committee plans to finish editing a draft law on not-for-profit organizations.

After public discussion of the law, a finalized bill

will be passed later this year.

### Kyrgyzstan

In February the republican parliament passed the first debating on Law of non-governmental organizations. Today appropriate committees of the Kyrgyzstan parliament consider supplementary proposals of non-governmental organizations concerning the bill. The second parliamentary debating on the bill is expected in early April.

### Tajikistan

The new Tax Code of the

republic, providing a number of privileges to NGOs, came into force on January 1, 1999; it clearly determines conceptions of 'charitable activities' and 'charitable organization'. In addition, today new draft Civil Code is publicly discussed in the republic, the Code provides for six different legal types of not-for-profit organizations.

### Turkmenistan

A round table on current NGO legislation was held in Ashgabat March 16-17, 1999. Government and NGOs of Turkmenistan, as well as international representatives, took part. Due to the Civil Code passed in 1998, it is expected the round table will foster perfection of legal conditions for not for profit organizations.

### Uzbekistan

In late 1998, the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan held the first reading of a new law on non-governmental, not-for-profit organizations. In April of 1999, the Olyi Majlis passed the new law that is currently awaiting official publication. Once published, this new law will create many advantages for NGOs relating to their registration and regulation.

## NGO news

preparation of a successful project. expert advices

training. grants

The newsletter 'NGO: Theory and Practice' invites all non-government organizations to collaboration. We'll be happy to see an information about your NGOs, your ideas, questions and methodical working out in our editorial board.

How to contact us:  
tel./fax (3272) 45-14-64

Address: P/B № 36,  
480057, Almaty,  
Kazakhstan

## Dear colleagues,

We are glad to present to you the first issue of the monthly newsletter, "NGO: Theory and Practice." Our not-for-profit bulletin is for those who are interested in successful development of NGOs, their partnerships with governments and businesses and, of course, cooperation and contacts among NGOs themselves.

Our pages will be devoted to NGO issues such as: challenges and their solutions; partnerships with government and/or business; resources; laws and taxes; training information; NGO management as well as answers to NGO leader's questions.

Our principles are simple: we want experienced NGOs to share their

knowledge with beginners. We want to bring new ideas about NGO work from around the world. We want to strengthen social organizations beyond 'legal entities', whose leaders use NGO for their political maneuvers, to become common efficient structures capable of influencing political and economic situations in the region.

We hope our newsletter will contribute to development of sustainability of the third sector as well as democracy and civil society as a whole.

An advisory board will ensure that issues important to Central Asian NGOs will be addressed. Counterpart Consortium directors will name one representative from each country to participate by e-mail on this

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kazakhstan

The Kazakhstan National Center for Social Adaptation and Labor Rehabilitation, (CALR) has operated in the republic for five years. CALR has transformed a former kindergarten building into an advanced research center where children with restricted abilities are studying under special programs with professional teachers.

Recently, CALR volunteered for a task force to draft a new law, Social and Correctional-Pedagogical Support of Disabled Children and Juveniles. They worked together with officials from the Ministry of Social Protection on this bill, which is now on the parliamentary schedule of legislative activities for 1999.

It is interesting that CALR has two faces - as an NGO, on one hand, and as a governmental organization, on the other. This allows the center to collaborate with donor organizations, other NGOs and authorities in a very effective way.

Recently the center won a tender to provide equipment for the hearing and speaking impaired. They are currently manufacturing hearing aids under this tender to which they were the only NGO that competed. The complete package of services provided by the CALR includes diagnostics, treatment and prevention of hearing impairments.

uzbekistan

2

'The country of white cotton', like any other country of the Central Asia, is building a democratic and secular state. The state where the three sectors - the government, businesses and non-governmental organizations, collaborate in harmony.

'Meros', an Artisan Development Center, established in 1996 has developed partnerships with government. 'Meros', which in the Uzbek language means 'legacy' brings together artisans that live and work in Samarkand. These successors to a rich ancient cultural heritage today revive and develop the arts of their ancestors. One of the arts is Samarkand hand-made paper.

Paper technology requires not only time and space, but water as well. The water must be only from the mountains to allow replication of the old products. Through constructive dialogue, local authorities decided to allocate to "Meros" Center a part of the River Chorgul and an old four-mill. The mill is being converted into a plant for hand-made paper. The project will provide new jobs and improvement of the welfare of the community in general. This artisans group helped to show authorities the importance of traditional artisans to the future of Uzbekistan. Their work and cooperation with government resulted in Artisans being exempted from taxes for 5 years.

Relations between the third sector and society are also demonstrated by the center's operation of a school for 'Meros' artisans' children where 65 students master traditional arts under the guidance of experienced artisans.

'Smoking seriously damages your health'. Seemingly, everyone knows this. However, NGO 'Non-Smoking Kyrgyzstan' decided to fight the pernicious habit - not by words-but by action. City Administration and 'Continent' Trading Advertising Company gave considerable assistance to the NGO. This joint effort resulted in two billboards against smoking being erected in Bishkek. Over 1500 Kyrgyzstan residents participated in an international "Nonsmoking" competition. Of those, 65% quit smoking.

turkmenistan

Turkmenistan is actively developing a social sector represented by non-governmental organizations, funds and associations. One of the organizations is NGO 'Formatsia Public Laboratory'.

'Formatsia' provides children and juveniles with regular training on seismic safety in its project, "Information-technical training center for seismic safety." Elementary students participate in training three times a week to study principles of self-protection in case of an earthquake. Governmental organizations are interested in these same problems. The Research Institute of Seismology provides free classrooms and furnishings for the training. The NGO also partners with the Environmental committee of the Desert Institute and 'Tekhno-service' scientific-technological center and plans to invite them to its training and to arrange other joint activities. Project General Seismic Safety is carried out in two stages. The first stage includes training of children and juveniles. The second stage - training of adults. According to scientists the number of victims of 1948 Ashgabat earthquake could have been much lower, if people had had appropriate training.

tajikistan

Today Tajikistan is just starting to cure the wounds caused by the civil war. The government is not capable of solving all problems alone-it needs help.

An NGO that solves the difficult but necessary treatment of cerebral palsy in orphans and children from poor families, is 'Avisenna' international fund. This NGO works not only with the funds of business but also in cooperation with the railways. The establishment of the NGO by Tajikistan businessman Abdusamet Nurmatov created this outstanding example of collaboration between the third sector and business. He also established a rehabilitation center in the town of Chkalovsk. The center provides quality medical services at no cost.

Since the center's establishment, one and a half years ago it has provided treatment and rehabilitation services to about 360 children suffering from cerebral palsy. Many of them come from regions of Khatlon oblast, badly affected by the civil war, where cerebral palsy in children is widespread. Many parents cannot afford to buy a railroad ticket to Chkalovsk. Railroad management became another partner in facilitating the treatment of children by providing free tickets to ill children and their parents.

Members of this NGO are actively collaborating with the Ministry of Health on a draft law for control and prevention of tobacco smoking in Kyrgyzstan. They have also prepared a draft Government Decree for the National Day of Non-Smoking that will be held annually on May 2 in the Kyrgyz Republic.

A monthly contest 'Quit Smoking and Win' was held for children and teenagers. Members of the Club have created a series of radio programs and provided lectures in high schools and higher education establishments. They have also trained teachers and physicians and arranged a scientific and practical conference on prevention of non-infectious diseases.

kyrgyzstan

# Preparation of a successful project

Abek Dymayev  
Zhan NGO Kazakhstan

## Advice # 1: Before submitting application

About 90% of all applications for funding are rejected by grantors. Why? An applicant has not clarified how to apply to the fund, and often, not even known whether the donor is suitable for funding his project. Fund-raising is not to find a grantor and to apply to it every time you need financial means. Searching for support and funding involves the following:

- Describe what your project is aimed at as clearly as possible. What problem will be solved? What group or groups within the population will benefit from your activities? What way? Try to describe it as clearly as possible.

- Examine funds. Find a few prospective grantors whose interests are like those of your organization or project.

- Think your project through—consider everything. For example, if you collaborate with another organization in your country or abroad, make sure whether it will allow you to apply to other grantors as well.

- Determine a funding purpose as precisely as possible. If you need funding for such a vast field as education you will be able to find 100 grantors. But if your educational project is called 'workshop', in this case you must search for funds supporting educational workshops.

- Apply to the funds operating for your country or region. Do not rely on suggestion; always check geographical operation area of a fund.

- Do not apply for funding exceeding amount usually given by a donor. If a fund have nev-

er donated more than US\$ 10,000, you should not apply for US\$ 75,000. In this case you will certainly be rejected even if your project is very interesting and urgent.

- Always examine the problem you face. You must closely examine urgency of solving exactly this problem and in this field. It is also necessary to determine what donor to apply to with the problem. Unless the problem is thoroughly examined you will not have grounds on which you will be able to make application for funding, so you will have nothing to submit to the grantor.

Remember that the funds and grantors need you to the extent you need them. The funds want your proposal to be carried out not in just any way, but properly.

## Advice # 2: Project budget

Budget gives financial description of a project or a program. It shows all project expenditures as well as what means will cover the expenditures (including the amount to be applied for from the fund). The budget represents your financial plan and documents how much money you are going to spend. It needs detailed planning; a single proposal is not enough.

Budget helps you use money strategically, all your expenditures must be considered in advance. If you expect funding from other sources or you are given equipment or rendered free services, you should consider all these in the budget. The budget must also include information on when possible funding, equipment or services from other sources are expected.

Here are some expenditures to be considered in a budget: personnel (including all employees – from director to secretary);

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taxes and allocations to the state budget; cost of equipment; consumables; consultants, translators; business trips (daily allowance, accommodation and transportation costs); other expenditures (including any rental, fax, telephone, e-mail, duplication and copying of printed materials, printing costs, etc.). There may be expenditures typical for your project only. You should include them in your application, too.

Budget must clearly determine the term you need funding. When will you need money? When will the need for funding disappear?

This must be seen from your budget not to have situation when you do not have financial means to begin or to complete the project.

Sometimes grantors are interested in how you searched for funding and where you are going to raise funds when the grant ends. A grantor wants to know it, and it is quite natural, as he must know exactly whether he should invest his money into your project. They also need to know why they should support your activities for a year if you haven't planned where you will find money after funding stops. If in a year of operation your organization disappears it will mean the grantor spent his money in vain. If the donor asks you the question, this will possibly make you think of further prospects of your project and your organization's plans for the future. Such questions should be treated as positively as possible. The earlier you think out your future plans and strategy of your organization the more convincingly your plans will sound to others.

**workshops and training**

'Advocacy' training was recently conducted in the Philippines for 27 Central Asian NGO leaders under USAID's Global Training Project. NGO representatives of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan attended November 16-28, 1998 and those from Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated March 1-12, 1999. The training was arranged by the Academy of Educational Development (AED). The Philippines NGO Center for Law Development (CLD), headed by Dr. Socorro L. Reyes who was in Central Asia in April of 98 training trainers and developing an advocacy workshop. Some of the trainers who participated in the April workshop last year as well as additional NGO representatives were in the Philippines to increase their understanding and skills in advocacy and constituency building. The trainees noted that the goals of training in the Philippines were attained, they acquired practical skills in Advocacy and Strategic Planning and established contacts with local NGOs. The best impressions of the training were associated with visiting local NGOs, the University of Development, and the Philippine's Parliament. "Advocacy is for people and it is aimed at improving the social protection of people and diversifying social services" - said one of the participants. Participants believe that the educational program was well organized and directly related to their activity in the NGO sector.

**NGO information on the Internet****Russian Websites:**

<http://www.dcn-asu.ru/book/kokorev/chap6.1.ru.html> - strategic planning. Essence and tasks.

<http://www.dcn-asu.ru/book/kokorev/chap15.3.1.ru.html> - marketing planning.

**English Websites:**

<http://www.fundraiser.com/feb99/planning.html> - assessment of results is one of the most important steps in planning and accomplishment of wide public event.

<http://www.energizeinc.com/ideas.html> - Do you need good ideas to encourage volunteers? Here they are.

*In this column we perform an information about funds supporting NGOs.*

**Institute for Development of Cooperation (IDC)**

IDC is one of three major funds, sponsored by the government of The Netherlands, in Central Asia. The others are NOVIB and ADB. IDC has offices in Kazakhstan, ADB is in Kyrgyzstan, while NOVIB has offices in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The three organizations have similar goals and activities.

One of IDC's five main goals is to aid women's NGOs through gender development. IDC is interested in long-term, sustainable activities with experienced, established women's NGOs, in existence at least one year. For qualified women's NGOs with strong project plans, IDC would grant a maximum \$30,000 in the first year of a project and possibly more during the second and third years.

**From the first person****'This training is one step forward to a democratic society'—**

believes one participant of the NGO 'Advocacy' Training in the Philippines.

**Natalya Bakhmutova**  
*'Leader' Center for Democratic Education, Kazakhstan*

- Before all, this workshop is useful as it discloses mechanisms of raising civil activities. You cannot speak about democratic society until the public begins active influencing governmental decision-making process. There can be various ways of involvement of citizens in the process: public opinion in mass media, meetings with deputies, officials, arrangement of round tables, etc. All these mechanisms were closely worked on during a training course in Philippines. For me as a Counterpart Consortium trainer, the most important were not only the practical experiences but also the methodology acquired. We put the Philippines experience into new training course of Counterpart Consortium - 'Advocacy' that is held throughout the Central Asia and is very popular. In addition, I have brought a book from Philippines issued by CLD titled 'How to fight and win in local elections'. The book has been already translated and is being prepared for printing. Now, I would like to talk about ethnic originality and special ways of development. I think there is no need to invent a bicycle anew - we have vast experience of developed countries in building a democratic society. We can take the experience, adjust and apply it. So we will achieve positive results faster and with 'little blood'. That's why the workshops are so important and essential. A civil society is a society with a developed third sector. No democracy can exist without energetic activities between social organizations and the population or without involvement of citizens in governmental decision-making process. We, representatives of NGOs, should always remember this.

**IDC—Kazakhstan**

28 Shevchenko Street  
Almaty  
Tel. (3272) 62-69-30  
Fax (3272) 69-25-07, 63-12-07  
Contact person: Inessa France

**NOVIB —Uzbekistan and Tajikistan**

Buyuk Turon Street  
Tashkent  
Tel. (3712) 30-20-27  
Contact person: Heather Carlisle

**ADB—Kyrgyzstan**

159-44, Kievskay Street  
Bishkek  
Tel./Fax (3312) 25-17-36  
Contact person: Erkinbek Jamanbaev

**NOVIB —The Netherlands**

The Hague  
Tel. (3170) 34-21-621  
Fax (3170) 36-14-461  
Contact person: Jurgen Vandertas



journalist antonina redko  
making-up damir mansurbaev

**grants**

# Theory and Practice

# NGO

Published by NGO "Zhan" (Kazakhstan) through funding of Counterpart Consortium/United States Agency for International Development  
The newsletter is available at web site <http://www.cango.net/kg/news>

## Dear Readers!

It is my great pleasure to welcome our readers to the second issue of *NGO Theory and Practice*. The newsletter is the culmination of almost two years of planning and I hope it will prove to be a valuable contribution to NGO practitioners around Central Asia. I recently spent several days talking with NGOs in Eastern Europe—in Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. I was interested to see that most of them publish newsletters and that they report newsletters are among their most popular services. This reflects my own experience. In my many years of working with NGOs in the US and throughout the world, information has been the rallying cry. NGOs always feel that

information is what they need the most: practical information, "how-to" information.

I am increasingly persuaded that newsletters are one of the most important ways to provide timely and pertinent information. And no wonder, because, really, newsletters are the very essence of information:

- \*They are flexible and responsive;
- \*They are easy to read and to digest;
- \*They stimulate ideas;
- \*They provide an opportunity for networking and communication;
- \*Above all, they are accessible.

These are the characteristics we have kept in mind in designing *NGO Theory and Practice*. We have two key objectives. One is to ensure that the newsletter can be distributed widely throughout the region and in very remote areas. Another is to create a newsletter that is sustainable

and will be a resource to the burgeoning NGO community of Central Asia for many years to come. For these reasons we have made our newsletter simple and compact so that it can be sent around this vast region electronically.

Of course the most important objective of all is that its contents should be useful to you in your work. This is why we have identified an advisory board that will review the content of the newsletter, critique and make suggestions for future articles and features. It was selected to reflect your interests. I urge you to contact the advisory board member for your country or the newsletter editor with your thoughts and ideas. If *NGO Theory and Practice* is not meeting your needs, clearly it is not meeting ours.

We feel very fortunate in having the well-known NGO Zhan as a partner in this endeavor. Of course, working with a local partner is a part of our sustainability strategy for the newsletter. But we feel we could have no better partner than Zhan because it was one of the first NGOs in Kazakhstan to realize the full responsibilities of an NGO. Zhan is a true citizen of the community, carrying out important work in the field of physical disabilities but also engaging with government and with other NGOs to help form a supportive environment for NGOs as the basic element of civil society and for the important work that they do everywhere in Central Asia.

We are proud to have you as a reader of *NGO Theory and Practice*.

**David Smith**

**Counterpart Consortium Central Asian Director**

***New NGO Law Development Sweeps Central Asia. While in Kazakhstan deputies and Third Sector workers "break a lance" over the development of a new NGO law, in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan new Laws have been adopted. Richard Remias, Regional Director of International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) in Central Asia comments on the changes the laws will make for NGOs in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.***

## Kyrgyzstan Parliament Adopts Progressive Law On "Non-Governmental (Non-Commercial) Organizations"

**advocacy  
professionals'  
advice**

**NGO news  
new in legislation**

**grants.contests**

Dear Colleagues and NGO representatives,  
If you have information you would like to share with our newsletter readers, please send it to our Advisory Board. We will be glad to have your informational support.

**How to contact us:**  
**Address: P.B.36, Almaty 480057, Kazakhstan**

The Legislative Assembly of the Kyrgyz Republic (Zhogorku Kenesha) passed the law "On Non-Governmental (Non-Commercial) Organizations" on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Although the law still awaits signature by President Akaev, its final enactment is likely. The law may be the most progressive of its kind in the entire CIS. It contains a series of progressive provisions that will alter the legal and regulatory environment for NGOs. However the law's effectiveness depends on its implementation by government. The law's adoption was the result of years of mutual work between deputies, representatives of local NGOs and international organizations. The initiative began in 1998 with an official working group of parliamentarians who combined competing NGO law initiatives into a single draft NGO law. Perhaps somewhat unprecedented, the drafters actively sought the input from NGOs and the public at large. By means of town meetings and NGO round tables, NGO representatives around the country reviewed the potential effects of this particular draft law. The completion and submission of the draft in itself symbolizes a strong spirit of cooperation between NGOs

## New Uzbekistan Law Offers New Hope for NGO Development

In April 1999, Uzbekistan adopted a new law regulating non-governmental, non-commercial organizations. The new law applies to non-profit organizations—legal entities that do not pursue economic gain as their main goal. It allows for the establishment of philanthropic foundations for the first time in Uzbekistan, and it also grants the right to establish an NGO to foreigners as well as to citizens of Uzbekistan.

The new law simplifies the registration procedures for foundations and other non-governmental organizations by requiring less documentation and more limited information. Under the previous legislation, onerous information requirements meant that registration could turn into a long, complicated process with uncertain results.

According to the new law, NGOs are required to give the public open access to information regarding its property and financial status. If exercised properly, such transparency requirements could help raise public awareness about the activities of NGOs and lead to greater trust between the public and the NGO community. In addition, a newly established Public Register of Legal Entities will give the public access to information on the registration status of individual groups.

The new law comes after three years of


**NGO news**
**Kyrgyzstan Parliament Adopts Progressive Law On  
"Non-Governmental (Non-Commercial) Organisations"**
*(Continued from p.1)*
**Contemporary Regulation of Non-Commercial Legal Entities**

The new law allows the significant reduction of the costs for creation, registration and regulation of all NGOs (both locally and regionally throughout Kyrgyzstan). The changes under the new law abandon the Soviet system of regulation of non-commercial organizations including the acting law "On Public Associations", with its outdated provisions related to registration and geographical limitations on activities.

The new law specifically excludes trade unions and political parties. By international norms, legal regulation of NGOs should be separate from that of trade unions and political parties. Not only does separation help to break down pre-existing stereotypes in post Soviet societies, but also it should result in more trust and cooperation between government and NGOs. Pursued to its end, the new law could also develop state financing of public benefit programs of NGOs in the near future.

**Guaranteeing the Right and Freedom to Associate**

The new law is apparently in accord with international documents/agreements that require the guarantee of certain fundamental rights—namely, the freedom to associate. The previous law compelled official registration of any group of people meeting in an organized fashion and consequently could be used to «illegalize» unregistered clubs or organiza-

tion. The new law specifically allows unregistered groups or organizations to carry out non-profit activities. As written, it also removes bureaucratic obstacles and seemingly curtails institutionalized discrimination against the contemporary NGO.

**Technically Speaking**

The adoption of this law clearly determines the legal status of several contemporary organizational-legal forms of legal entities; NGOs, associations, foundations and institutions. Although foundations and NGOs existed de facto prior to the new law, it was difficult to place them under the ambit of the law "On Public Associations". These organizational legal forms, such as real foundations, were previously non-existent in the legislation. Now, the potential for creating property-based foundations has broadened. It is also possible to create foundations by testamentary act (certified by a notary). The specifics of governing structures and control issues within a foundation are also clarified (i.e. creation and powers of Board of Directors and Advisory Councils).

In this respect, this law potentially strengthens the status of all non-commercial organizations, and establishes their clear distinction from commercial organizations. It also creates a framework that distinguishes NGOs by their activities. These distinctions will decrease the potential for fraud and will allow the government to apply tax and other exemptions to deserving organizations.

Although the law may establish a good organizational-legal basis for the creation of non-governmental non-commercial organizations, the bill must be enacted and the government authorities (such as the Ministry of Justice) need to implement it fairly and properly. It remains to be seen what will come of this particular legislation and the general legal and regulatory environment for NGOs. Nonetheless, the initial steps have been strong and solid.

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**New Uzbekistan Law Offers New Hope for  
NGO Development**
*(Continued from p.1)*

NGOs and international organizations, such as USAID, Counterpart Consortium, OSCE, UNDP and the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL). The broad-based interest in NGO legislation stems from the realization that NGOs play an increasingly important role in the overall development of a country.

The government of Uzbekistan was encouraged by various international organizations and local NGOs to improve the legal and regulatory environment for NGOs. As a result of the combined interest, President Karimov called for NGO reform last fall in his address to the nation. An official working group was formed to draft new NGO legislation. After an intense campaign consisting of debate, discussion and drafting, an initial draft was prepared and introduced into the December session of Parliament. Following a commenting period, the Oliy Majilis passed the bill on April 15<sup>th</sup> and soon thereafter, President Islam Karimov signed the bill into law.

Despite the positive elements in the new legislation, it leaves

many important issues unresolved. For example, the law does not adequately define the authority granted to government bodies that are expected to monitor the NGO community. This lack of definition could potentially enable government officials to interfere arbitrarily in NGO activities. Another problematic point is that the law lists a broad series of reasons by which the authorities may deny an NGO the right to register. Furthermore, it fails to define clearly the procedures by which an NGO may appeal the denial of this right to a court of law. The new law also contains the restrictive requirement from the previous legislation that an NGO must include in its charter every activity it plans to engage in and requires re-registration every time an NGO plans to change or expand its field of operations.

Most commentators on the new legislation agree that ultimately the law will prove itself in the way it is implemented and enforced by the authorities. The Uzbek government plans to develop implementing regulations soon and these regulations will demonstrate whether the government and the NGO community will be able to work together effectively to improve the legal and regulatory environment for the Third Sector in Uzbekistan.

For the first time in CIS history, the US Congressional Committee on Security and Negotiation in Europe held a debate about Democratic and Human Rights issues in Kazakhstan. Members of Congress and independent experts made comments on behalf of the US. Bolat Nurgaliev, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to USA, represented the official views of Kazakhstan and Yevgeniy Zhovtis, Director of International Bureau of Human Rights in Kazakhstan (NGO), Peter Svoik, co-chairman of 'Azamat' political party and Akezhan Kazhgeldin, the ex-Prime Minister of Kazakhstan expressed opposing views. NGO leader, Yevgeniy Zhovtis, emphasized that political liberalization in the country is being reduced. Laws regarding human rights and liberty, as a rule, are prepared by Government and then are submitted to the Parliament to be passed without any discussion by the people. Since 1995 the Parliament has not had executive

**Debate in US Congressional Committee  
Features Democratic Change in Kazakhstan**

peaceable meetings is limited. To organize such actions it is necessary to get government permission and it is difficult to do. If a bill on the media currently being discussed in Republic is passed, the 'fourth power' will be under strict government control.

The debate in the US congress created negative reactions both outside and inside Kazakhstan. The US is concerned about democratic development and observance of human rights in Kazakhstan. Some experts think that this debate was an indirect recommendation to American organizations working at Kazakhstan to raise the level of assistance there in order to develop

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# advocacy

In this issue of the newsletter, advocacy is being featured. Understanding how this theme is multifaceted and meaningful, we bring attention to the following: what is advocacy, planning a strategy for advocacy, methods and achievements of NGOs' social and political initiatives. In the next issue we plan to continue this theme. However, without your information we can not manage to do it well. Write to our editorial office or Advisory Board member in your country to tell about your methods of advocacy, concrete results and successes of applied strategy. Please include organizational address, telephone and E-mail.

## This material is the result of common efforts of trainers and NGO leaders from Central Asia

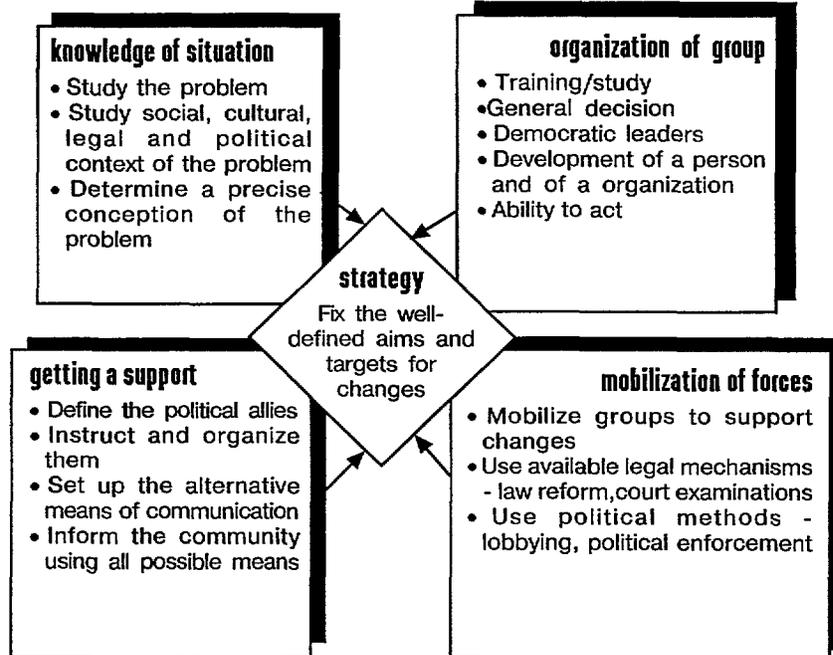
**1. Conception advocacy** From English language 'advocacy' is translated as 'protection'. We recommend considering 'advocacy' as strategic use of public resources to advance social and political initiatives. We are aware that 'advocacy' is a long-term activity.

**2. On strategy of advocacy** Strategy means a plan of action according to which you develop and use the required resources to achieve your aims. Strategy should be based on the examination of external and internal circumstances, desirable aims and methods of achievement.

The study of external circumstances implies an estimation of the situation and opportunity to get support from outside.

The review of internal circumstances implies an estimation of internal resources of the organization and opportunities to mobilize forces to achieve your aims.

### 3. Planning the strategy of advocacy



## Civil Rights should be Known From the School Bench

**Natalya Shabutz**  
**Public Organization "Civil Dignity"**  
2/4 Mir h #7, app #7  
744017 Ashgabat, Turkmenistan  
E-mail: jeren@cpart.org

Advocacy begins for me with the realization of individual dignity and civil self-esteem. The mission of our organization is to teach young people the principles of legal knowledge and to tell them about the democratic processes and mechanisms of representing democracy by providing them educational programs.

One of the main goals of the

organization "Civil dignity" is the creation of a Youth Center for civil, moral and esthetic education in Ashgabat. The center will include a library, which can provide materials on legal knowledge, including advocacy. We want to let young people know about human's rights in general and women, children, invalids and orphans rights in particular and let them consider these rights through their level of morality. We would like the upcoming generation to become acquainted with how civil rights and promotion of society interests can be protected. A few years ago there were experimental classes on civil subjects

### 4. Some methods to achieve aims:

1) According to the advocacy establishing coalitions and unions allows to achieve the following results:

- To strengthen a political influence and to increase the capability of 'pressure' on authorities.

- To provide conformity of public information, to enlarge the incidence of civil education and legal literacy.

- To extend relations and contacts as well as to strengthen the resources on partnership's account.

2) Public campaigns and social actions which help to increase the number of your supporters.

3) Training / study of movement participants.

4) Lobbying for influencing on perfection of legislation.

**Last word:** The main point is to do not leave the planned way and develop the strategy according to the circumstances.

When this experiment stopped, I conducted a survey among students, asking about their attitudes. I got the following answers:

"...these classes encouraged our human development",  
"...we talked as if we are deputies",  
"...we were entitled to make decisions",  
"...in these classes we've been learning to think, and students tried their best to feel that they are citizens",  
"...in the classes you felt that you are human, who has the right to think and make decisions of your own".

These comments show the usefulness and necessity of such classes. Our young organization also wants to help other people to become dignified human beings. If we fail to achieve this, there will be no further development of democracy. We can provide interactive lessons on how to create a political party, how to conduct parliamentary and presidential elections and how to promote human rights and community interests. We don't supply the "right answers". Each participant in a discussion, with the help of trainers, will find his own means of solving the problems he faces. Not long ago, Counterpart Consortium/ USAID provided a grant to our organization to conduct educational seminars. We have taken this as a good sign that we can realize our plans. If you feel confident that you are doing the right thing, this leaves hope for tomorrow.



## grants

**Eurasia Foundation is one of many organizations which provides funding for the development projects to build civil society and assist in developing local self-government.**

Eurasia Foundation was established in 1995 with financial support of U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for developing democracy and market systems in the NIS.

Within its scope of activities, Eurasia mainly provides funds in three priority areas:

- \*Loan programs for small-scale business
- \*Consortium of Economic Training and Research
- \*Support of Independent Media

However, its activities are not limited to supporting these programs. They also actively support progressive innovation projects related in a wider spectrum of economic reform and building democratic institutions.

**Developing government management and local self-government** Grants provided by Eurasia support projects aimed at improving the quality of management at national, regional and local levels. Special attention is paid to improving activities of local authorities. Preference is given to projects offering innovation directions, providing services important to society, supporting economic development of regions and developing mechanisms which provide feedback between the population and authorities. The Fund supports long-term and short-term programs of training and raising the level of specialists' skill in government management that meet international requirements. It also supports development of programs to improve financial management of local authorities as well as legislation and alternative mechanisms for effective self-government.

**Assistance in developing civil society (including media)** Eurasia supports long-term and short-term training programs of financial management to raise specialists' skill levels and to develop more effective activities of social organizations; development philanthropy; voluntary movements and membership based organizations. They support activities providing financial and professional independence to media, training of journalists and editors of independent media, analysis and improvement of media legislation, and studying problems of free press. They also support programs aimed at developing progressive legislation in the priority fields of civil rights, enlargement of public participation in the legislative process and improvement of public access to information on legislation.

Average amount of grants provided to regional organizations is \$10,000 to \$18,000 US. Partnership program grants provided by the Head Office in Washington average \$60,000 US. The Foundation provides grants only to registered legal entities.

To achieve flexibility and expediency in financing programs

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## keep it so!

We congratulate 'Ecological project', NGO from Kazakhstan that won third place in the 'EcoEther-99', International Festival of CIS countries and Mongolia. They were the only NGO among many professional TV stations who placed in the event. Organizers of the Festival were Tacis Program, BBC, 'Kiev-99' TV and radio fair. Over 200 projects competed in the festival from all CIS countries. Victory to our guys was gained by a film 'Desertification', directed by Gaziz Nasyrov, nominated in the social-ecological clip category. Eco-Project' tied for third place with independent NTV Television Company of Moscow.

'Ecological project' NGO  
85/20 Mynbayev St., 480057 Almaty, Kazakhstan  
Tel: (3272) 437046  
E-mail: ecopro@nursat.kz

appropriate to priorities, Eurasia Fund accepts project applications at any time and does not fix submission deadlines except in cases of special announcements. The Foundation requires applicants to send brief letters (2-3 pages) describing purposes of the proposed project so that they can determine whether or not it fits the current priority directions of Eurasia activities. Foundation staff, responsible for considerations of projects, reply to the letters in a short time. They indicate that the applicant either submit an application or inform them that the project does not fit the priority directions of Eurasia programming.

Further information, including a database on grants, information on tenders and special projects, can be accessed from the website: <http://www.eurasia.org>.

**Regional Department for Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan**

21 Gertsen St.,  
700100 Tashkent,  
Uzbekistan  
Tel. (3712) 534-757 or 535-321 or 530-364  
Fax 371-139-4103  
E-mail: [eurasia@ef.silk.org](mailto:eurasia@ef.silk.org), [eurasia@ef.freenet.uz](mailto:eurasia@ef.freenet.uz)

**Regional Department for Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan**

76 Zhibek Zholy avenue,  
7<sup>th</sup> floor, 480004 Almaty,  
Kazakhstan  
Tel. (3272) 501-810  
Fax 501-811  
E-mail: [eurasia@ef.almaty.kz](mailto:eurasia@ef.almaty.kz)

## Advisory Board

*of our newsletter is designed to reflect your interests, concerns and ideas. The Advisory Board helps us to choose topics and information that best fit the needs of NGOs in each country. If you have information, suggestions and remarks, please contact our Board representative in your republic.*

<b>Kazakhstan</b> Eugenia Kozyreva Feminist League 23/32, Abay Ave. Almaty, Kazakhstan Tel. (3272)630242 E-mail: <a href="mailto:feminist@online.ru">feminist@online.ru</a>	<b>Tajikistan</b> Ibragim Tsvetkov Center for Information & Education App.22, 45/1, Bohtar St. Dushanbe, Tajikistan Tel. (3772)217095, 318608 E-mail: <a href="mailto:malik@cpart.tajnet.com">malik@cpart.tajnet.com</a>
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<b>Kyrgyzstan</b> Erkina Ubycheva Public Fund of Harmony & Tolerance 107 Kievskaya St., 5th floor Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan Tel. (3312)610135, 610261 Fax 610021 E-mail: <a href="mailto:toled@cango.net.kg">toled@cango.net.kg</a>	<b>Uzbekistan</b> Ilona Ilyasova Newsletter "Initiative" 11-a Donskay St. Tashkent, Uzbekistan Tel. (3712)670837 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ilona@cpart.uz">ilona@cpart.uz</a>
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<b>Turkmenistan</b> Jeren Khakhieva Counterpart Consortium 26 Ac. Petrov St. Ashgabad, Turkmenistan Tel./Fax (3632)357125, 357005 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Jeren@cpart.org">Jeren@cpart.org</a>	<b>Counterpart Consortium</b> Central Asian Regional Office 100 Shevchenko St., 6th floor Almaty, Kazakhstan Tel. (3272) 621-644 E-mail: <a href="mailto:root@cpart.alma-ata.uz">root@cpart.alma-ata.uz</a>
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editor antonina redko  
layout editor damir mansurbaev  
distributed in central asia by counterpart consortium  
editorial staff does not always share opinions of the published materials  
submitted materials are revised and not returned

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## COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM

**Announces the opening of a Women's Project Grant Program for Non-Governmental Organizations of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

The projects may cover any of the following topics:

- 1.Support for women's leadership
- 2.Women's social problem solution
- 3.Solution for the problem of unemployment among women
- 4.Protection of women's rights and representation of their interests
- 5.Civic education

**Criteria for organizations:**

- 1.The mission and the goals of organization should be aimed at solving women's problems
- 2.Functioning in the Republic of Kazakhstan
- 3.Coalitions of non-governmental organizations will be given preferences

**The terms of the contest:**

1.Two Grant Committee meetings are planned within the framework of the program:

\*first in October, deadline for applications - September 15

\*second in December, deadline for applications - November 15

2.The applications should be filled in according to Counterpart Consortium's grant application for this program in Russian or Kazakh language

3.Project's duration - not more than 6 months

4.Average sum of grants - from \$3,000 to \$5,000

**Applications should be sent to one of the following addresses:**

1. 100 Shevchenko Str., 6th floor, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 480072

2. Fax: (3272) 60-86-06

3. E-mail: [root@cpart.alma-ata.su](mailto:root@cpart.alma-ata.su)

## Training courses

World Trade Institute of Pace University offers the training "Management Skills Development", which will be hold in New York in 9-20 August, 1999.

Enquiries:

International Training Department:

E-mail: [wti@pace.edu](mailto:wti@pace.edu)

Center for Professional Development at Roger Williams University invites to the training "Informational Management Systems for Nonprofits". It will be carried out in August 16- September 13, 1999.

Enquiries: Tel.: (+1) (800) 222-9572

## Job opening: OSI Budapest seeking NIS trainers

The Open Society Institute - Budapest invites applications from trainers and consultants with substantial experience in the nonprofit sector of the former Soviet Union. We are looking for experienced trainers in a range of disciplines, most notably: strategic planning; program management; and program evaluation.

We are seeking versatile and interactive trainers who can present the courses on a freelance contract basis in Hungary and elsewhere in the region, as necessary. Excellent English language skills are required, mastery of Russian is highly desirable.

Please send Resume and Letter of Interest by July 30, 1999 to:

Greta Siegal, Director

Department of Organizational

Development

Open Society Institute - Budapest

Oktober 6, u. 12, H-1051 Budapest

**you ask -  
we answer...**

*Dear readers, we would like to bring to your attention our new column "You ask - We answer". Your questions concerning the work (activity) of non-government sector in your republics are highly desirable here. Our qualified specialists will answer your questions.*

*In this issue we address the question of tax privilege changes for NGOs in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.*

## In Tajikistan - new privileges for NGO

## and in Kazakhstan - tightening of fiscal policy

Vadim Ni

Consultant of International Center for Not-for-profit Law

A new Tax Code came into force in Tajikistan on January 1, 1999. This document primarily addresses tax assessments, deductions and privileges. Compared with previous tax legislation, it extends the following privileges to non-profit and charitable activities:

1.The types of legal entities enabled to enjoy existing and potential tax privileges have been increased. Previously only two forms of NGOs were able to utilize tax benefits. Now existing and potential benefits can be applied to foundations, charitable organizations, and international organizations.

2.A new concept of not-for-profit (passive) economic activities was introduced.

3.Legal entities are now able to donate up to two percent of their taxable income to charity and claim that amount "nontaxable".

4.Privileges toward some types of non-profit organizations concerning value-added-tax, tax on wealth that is not used in business is stipulated. For the first time tax legislation in Tajikistan is determined by categories: 'charitable activities', 'charitable organization', and 'interconnected per-

es toward charitable activities as well as to develop appropriate privileges in the future.

**Kazakhstan** parliament accepted the changes in taxation of charitable activities on March 31, 1999. However, these changes seem to reduce rather than increase tax privileges:

1.Tax exemption for excised goods imported as humanitarian aid and for charitable purposes was cancelled.

2.Tax changes for charitable activities in the new law reduce the amount of charitable payments donors can make on their taxable income. Although the volume of such nontaxable donations remain the same - a two percent deduction of **estimated** taxable income from business considerably reduces the possibility of using this tax privilege. Now it is very unprofitable and risky for Kazakhstan businesses to make donations especially when they are based on **estimated** income versus actual income.

In whole, Kazakhstan government officials ascertain that tightening the tax system for charitable activities is important in overcoming problems caused by the world financial crisis. However, if we look at the Tajikistan's example, even with its social and economic difficulty due to continued internal military strife, they have solved problems without reducing charitable tax privileges. It is also a fact that increased taxation of non-commercial organizations will not increase revenues to any noticeable degree nor will it stimulate economic development. Conversely, taxation of non-commercial organizations can

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# for NGOs from Internet

## NGOs Meet their Match on the Net

A new contact-finding service has been launched on the Internet to encourage partnerships between organisations in Central and Eastern Europe, the Newly Independent States and the UK.

Contact Finder - <http://www.charityknowhow.org> - will provide advice and information to NGOs on all aspects of relationship building, from identifying needs to communicating with potential partners.

Developed by Charity Know How (CKH), a grant making body that supports the non-profit sector in the region, Contact Finder will offer a step-by-step guide to seeking appropriate partners, looking at why partnerships should be considered in the first place, the types of partners that should be sought and how they can be identified.

Contact Finder also provides tools for assessing your organisation and identifying its specific needs and offers links to the sites of non-profit and funding organisations throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States, as well as to UK-based organisations, supporting groups in the region.

So the Contact Finder Service contains four parts:

- **A Guide to seeking potential partners**
- **Links to websites listing non profit organisations, both in the UK and in CEE/NIS**
- **Links to funding organisations**
- **Tool for assessing your organisation**

If you have further suggestions on websites which should be added to the Contact Finder service, please contact via email at the following specific address : [contactfinder@caf.charitynet.org](mailto:contactfinder@caf.charitynet.org)

### Donors (from Contact Finder Service)

Three types of sites are included in this section - lists of donor sites; individual donor sites; sites with broader fundraising information.

### CCSI (Centre for Civil Society International)

<http://solar.rtd.utk.edu/oldfriends/ccsi/usnisorg/usnisfnd.htm>

This site provides direct links to a range of US and European funding organisations, both public and private, with funding activities in the NIS. The site also provides links to country offices of key donors, as well to other

funding and fundraising information sources.

### European Union - TACIS

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/tacis/index.htm>

This site gives detailed information on the overall

TACIS programme throughout the Newly Independent States (excluding the Baltic states), and Mongolia. The site lists «Small project Programmes» within the «Working with TACIS» section, allowing visitors to identify existing by subject area. Individual project objectives and contact details of implementing agencies are provided. In addition, country profiles detail TACIS programmes within individual countries.

### Funders Online (European Foundation Centre)

<http://www.fundersonline.org/>

The Funders Online Directory offers access to profiles of a vast range of international foundations' and corporate funders' websites. The Directory is also searchable by funder's areas of interest indexed by subject focus, geographic focus, population focus and types of support. The site also provides links to a variety of other pertinent funding and fund-seeking information.

### Soros Foundations Network

<http://www.soros.org/>

This site provides detailed information on the activities of the network of Soros Foundations. These include international programmes as well as national programmes of the country offices. The site advises visitors on how to make applications for support.

### UK Fundraising

<http://www.fundraising.co.uk/>

This site provides information on a variety of issues of importance to non-profit fundraisers, in addition to listings of donors. Links to donors (found under Grants and Funding) list key organisations by region (UK, Europe, North America.) Not all funders listed are active in CEE/NIS.

### The Virtual Foundation

<http://www.virtualfoundation.org/>

An innovative site that brings a new approach to grant-making, principally focused on CEE/NIS countries, but with additional coverage. The site provides an opportunity for organisations to post projects requiring funds, which can then be browsed by potential donors. Detailed instructions for how operate on the site are provided through the FAQ page.

## USIA Alumni Small Grants Program

Sponsored by the

United States Informational Agency (USIA)

Administered by the

International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX)

The USIA Alumni Small Grants Program provides grants to alumni of the following USIA-sponsored programs for professional development activities:

- Regional Scholar Exchange Program (RSEP)
- FSA Fellowships in Contemporary Issues (CI)
- Freedom Support Act Graduate Fellowship Program (FSA/Grad)
- Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program (Muskie)
- Curriculum Development Exchange Program (CDEP)
- Curriculum Consultant Exchange Program (CCEP)

The purpose of the Program is to further the professional development of the USIA alumni. Grants from \$2000

to \$5000 will allow alumni to do the following:

## contests

- Attend conferences, make research trips in the NIS or Baltics region
- Fund travel to the NIS or Baltics region for US colleagues for conferences, consultations, collaborative research projects
- Organize training programs or conferences for other alumni and USIA constituencies
- Publish materials
- Create websites, purchase modems to allow for greater access to information and colleagues abroad
- Conduct any other projects judged to be in the interest of the Program goals

### Application Deadline: August 2, 1999

Please contact local IREX offices for applications. You also can contact IREX at <mailto:irex@irex.org> for application and further information on this program. Some application forms can be downloaded directly from the

**AID TO ARTISANS ATTACHMENTS**

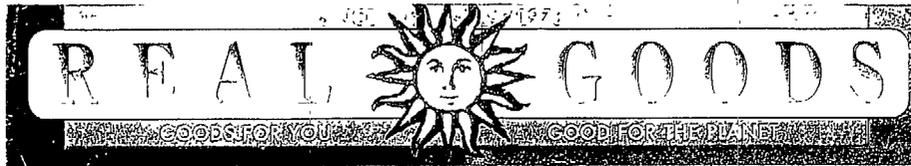


ATA Regional Director for Central Asia Margaret Bishop; Peace Corps Volunteer Bruce Grover, Managing Director of Texaco in Kazakhstan Edward Verona, Sheber Aul Director Rimma Nurtaeva, U.S. Ambassador Richard Jones, and AFA Projects Director Mary Cockram participate in the grand opening ceremony for the new facility at the Sheber Aul artisan village

Sheber Aul hosts the fourth meeting of the Central Asia regional artisan association in the new facility



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AID TO ARTISANS

AID TO ARTISANS

Aid to Artisans: A Hand Up, Not a Hand Out



LIVING ON THE KYRGIZ PLATEAU, a windswept expanse of barren steppe that straddles the top of the world between China and the former Soviet Union, has never been easy. Surrounded by jagged mountain peaks, the altitude in this place is such that women and horses must travel down the slopes of the plateau to give birth, or risk asphyxiation from lack of oxygen. This is the homeland of the Kyrgyz, nomadic herders who have moved with their animals for centuries, over the plateau, up and down the peaks, from one sparse traditional grazing site to another. Since China first, and then the Soviet Union, closed their borders

early in the century, making a living went from hard to impossible. Families and whole tribes fled to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Lapland and Canada. When the Soviet Union collapsed, the remnants of these tribes tried to find each other in the fledgling country of Kyrgyzstan, only to discover that in their 15, 20, or 40 years away, many of the skills they needed to survive on the highest inhabited plateau on the planet had disappeared.

At least one ancestral tradition is vibrant and alive—the crafting of felted wool, used to weatherproof yurts or embellished with lavish embroidery for interior furnishings, clothing, and blankets. Savvy importers are eager to buy up Kyrgyz folk craft for pennies and resell it to U.S. and European retailers for an exorbitant personal profit. They aren't going to get the chance. Thanks to a unique nonprofit

development organization called Aid to Artisans (ATA), the Kyrgyz are selling their felted wool products in the international marketplace themselves, supporting their families without government aid, and beginning to reestablish their cultural identity.

Since 1976, ATA has been providing cash grants, market development training, and sustainable economic development projects to peoples like the Kyrgyz. ATA projects are designed to last just long enough for the cooperative or business to become completely self-supporting, usually no more than 5 years. Karla Hostetler, ATA Regional Director for Central Asia, reports, "In Balkanbaeva Kyrgyzstan, the Golden Thimble Group (an ATA-developed artisans group) has become so successful that the local government has begun consulting them on ways to solve other community problems, from business development and employment to water supply problems." Recently, ATA artisans in neighboring Uzbekistan let their legislature know that export tariffs would create a hardship for their growing businesses,

consequently the legislature voted to drop export tariffs for at least five years.

As part of their training, ATA brings co-op representatives to International Gift Shows, consults with ATA groups on pricing, packaging, quality control, billing and shipping, export documentation, and using communications technology. "When you consider these individuals had never been gainfully employed before 1992, that they had not known how to open a bank account or really understood the concept, and jumped at the sound of the fax (a piece of equipment they had never seen before) it was really impressive to think of these same individuals exhibiting their ATAG (ATA/Ghana) product range at International Trade Fairs funded by USAID by 1994," reports Charlotte Di Vita, Director of Trade Plus Aid in Surrey England. ATA meets every definition of integrity, providing a whole-process program that gives artisans the skills and knowledge they need to represent their own economic interests in the complex global marketplace.

Aid to Artisans offers practical assistance to artisans worldwide, working in partnerships with private, public, and government organizations to foster artistic traditions, cultural vitality and community well-being. Through training and collaboration in product development, production and marketing, ATA provides sustainable economic and social benefits for craftspeople in an environmentally sensitive and culturally respectful manner. Over 80% of ATA's funding is spent directly on project budgets, the other 20% supports a small core staff and pays for ATA's modest offices in Farmington, Connecticut.

ATA is an exemplary model of what can be accomplished by a handful of dedicated people with a compelling vision of social and eco-

economic justice. Real Goods is proud to be a new member of the ATA trade network, with our first ATA offering in the Summer Real Goods catalog (Kenyan stacking baskets on page 55). Look for many more gift items from ATA artisans and cooperatives in the Amazon, Africa, Asia,

and the U.S. in our Fall and Holiday catalogs. When you make up your Christmas list, please choose ATA products and know that the money you spend will directly benefit the artisans who made the product, instead of exploiting them.

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Applied felted wool tapestry used in rugs, pillows, etc.



Making felted wool in Kyrgyzstan

Article about ATA's work in Central Asia appearing in the summer 1999 REAL GOODS catalog



Ikat silk fabric



Dyeing ikat silk



Making ikat silk fabric in Margilan, Uzbekistan

**LEGAL MATERIALS PROVIDED BY ICNL**

The following legal materials (in English and Russian) were provided to all interested parties in Central Asia:

#### **General Articles and Information**

- The Checklist for NPO laws
- *The World Bank's Handbook on Good Practices for Laws Relating to Non-commercial Organizations*
- Book *Non-Commercial Organizations in Central Asia*, written by ICNL local partner-Kazakhstan, Vadim Nee
- *The OSI Guidelines for Civic Organizations*, written by ICNL
- *Role and Purpose of the NGO Sector: Reasons for a Comprehensive Law*, prepared by the ICNL (general fact sheet)
- *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
- *Bases of regulating Activities of the Non-Commercial Sector*, Karla Simon, Executive Vice President ICNL
- *The Role and Purpose of the NGO Sector*, Leon Irish, President ICNL
- *International Laws and Principles of NGO Regulation*, Natalia Bourjaily, ICNL Program Director for NIS

#### **Taxation Issues**

- Article, *The Tax Treatment of Not-for-profit Organizations. A Survey of Best Practices from Around the World*
- *Economic Activities of Non-Commercial Organizations*, prepared by the ICNL, for the Regulating Civil Society Conference in Hungary (May, 1996)

#### **Charity Laws**

- ICNL Compilation of Charitable Activities Laws and ICNL Comments to these Laws
- Kazakhstan Draft Law on Charity (ICNL assisted)
- Charity Commission – purpose and principles argument sheet
- Moscow Law on Charity, 1995
- Resolution of Mayor on establishment of the Charity Commission in Moscow
- Hungarian Law CLVI on Public Benefit Organizations, 1997
- Selected Provisions of Hungarian Law IV, 1959
- Georgian Draft Law on Charitable Activity and Charitable Organizations

#### **NGO Laws**

- Article, *New Legislation on Non-commercial Organizations in Russia*
- Azerbaijan Draft NGO Law (ICNL assisted project)
- Yemen Draft Law on NGOs (drafted with assistance from ICNL)
- Memoranda: The Organizational Legal Forms of NGOs

#### **Foundations**

- Estonian Law on Non-Commercial Organizations (drafted with assistance from ICNL)
- Translation of the *Comparative Review of Laws on Foundations*, article by Tymen J. van der Ploeg, *Voluntas*, International Journal of Voluntary and Non-Profit Organizations, 6/3
- Slovenian Law on Foundations, 1985
- Slovakian Law on Foundations, 1996
- Finnish Law on Foundations, 1930

- Polish Law on Foundations, 1984
- Russian Draft Law on Foundation

**Project Specific Analyses**

- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan NGO Legislation
- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan Tax Code
- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan Law on Public Associations
- ICNL Analysis of Cultural Associations Law
- ICNL List--Problems with Kazakhstan Legislation
- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan Draft Charity Law
- ICNL Commentary and Proposals on Kyrgyz Tax Code
- ICNL Analysis and Recommendations to Kyrgyzstan Law on NGOs (ongoing with more than 8 different versions)
- ICNL Analysis of Kyrgyzstan Charity Draft Law
- ICNL Suggested Provisions to Kyrgyzstan NGO Draft Law
- ICNL Recommendations to Uzbekistan Draft NGO Law (on-going with more than 8 different versions)
- ICNL Analysis of Uzbekistan Tax Code
- ICNL Recommendations to Tajikistan Draft Law on Public Associations
- ICNL Recommendations to Tajikistan Civil Code
- ICNL Commentary to Turkmenistan Civil Code

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