



FY 2005 QUARTERLY REPORT (3RD QUARTER)

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

**Civic Education
On-Site Technical Assistance**

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

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

April 1, 2005 – June 30, 2005

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW

The third reporting quarter in Kazakhstan oversaw the end of the academic year for secondary school teachers and students and the beginning of preparations for summer activities. For IFES this meant end-of-year monitoring and evaluation of schools participating in the Civics Course and Textbook program, Citizenship and Participation in Governance: Your Role in the Society of the 21st Century, as well as the extracurricular activities that form the core of its civic education project. Recommendations made by students, teachers and education officials during the annual Civics Tournament were assessed as textbook edits were considered. In addition, a major conference took place in Astana sponsored by the Ministry of Education to discuss civic education as a necessary part of the national curriculum. The resulting discussions provided guidance to the IFES textbook project and facilitated several valuable contacts that will ultimately help bring the project closer to its goal of sustainability and ownership by local authorities.

In addition to the civics course and textbook project, the flagship initiative of IFES in Kazakhstan, IFES conducted several sets of activities related to its extracurricular civic education program as the school year wound down including SACs and SLGDs. The projects enabled IFES staff to travel on monitoring and assessment missions and plan for both the national and regional Democracy Summer Camps to take place in July. To this end, IFES began interviewing candidates who applied for admission to the Camps, who will be competitively selected.

IFES responded to inquiries by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Central Election Commission on the topic of assistance for the local Maslikhat elections. These contacts were reported to USAID, as they fell outside of the current scope of IFES work in Kazakhstan.

II. PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES

Secondary Civic Education Textbook Project in Kazakhstan

During this quarter, IFES-Kazakhstan continued to work on an updated edition of its civic education textbook. IFES finished editing chapters 9-11, which will be included in Part B of the first volume. Revisions of the text and glossary of chapters 1-5 of the Kazakh-language text were completed. The order of chapters was slightly altered based on discussions with the Ministry and outside experts. The Russian-language version was updated accordingly. IFES also researched topics for chapters 12-13 (second volume) and edited the chapters in the student textbook.

Additional changes and updates were made to all language versions, all volumes based on discussions held with teachers, students, Ministry of Education officials and independent experts. Coordination of these changes requires careful planning so that the Russian and Kazakh editions, as well as the English, all reflect the essence of the change.

The revised version of the Russian language Teacher's Guide was distributed to pilot schools. This Guide was revised in accordance with teachers' suggestions and recommendations.

IFES identified 19 new pilot schools in and around Almaty and Astana, visited them and distributed textbooks and teacher's guides after conducting teacher's training and orientation sessions. IFES representatives also trained teachers from Akmolinsk oblast in Kokchetau and distributed textbooks for piloting. They visited existing pilot schools in these regions as well; as near Aktau for monitoring and evaluation purposes. Many new schools in and around Almaty and Astana have started using the latest edition of the textbook. The geographical proximity of the new schools has improved IFES' ability to support and monitor them.

Upon USAID's suggestion, IFES met with the Executive Director of the National Debate Center Bakhytnur Otarbayeva in order to discuss possible cooperation in setting up and running a series of debates on educational reform issues. It was agreed that they will work together to develop debate topics relevant to public involvement in the educational reform process.

Conference and Workshop on Civic Education Standards

IFES participated in a Conference and follow-on workshop on civic education standards in Kazakhstan. The discussions featured an evaluation of several textbooks being used by the Ministry in secondary schools, including the IFES textbook. Visiting Indiana University Professor William Fierman provided critical analysis of all current textbook options and gave detailed feedback on the Russian and Kazakh version of the IFES book. IFES Chief of Party Jennifer Wilson and Civic Education Consultant Simon Jenkins met Dr. Fierman and Ministry officials to discuss how to further improve the IFES approach to textbook development and synchronize its objectives to the State Standards provided by the Ministry.

A formal evaluation of the IFES textbook and course was provided by Dr. Fierman and shared with USAID. The evaluation was positive and contained numerous suggestions for improvement, including providing sources of recommended reading, clarifying such topics as "Nationalism and Origin of the State," and de-simplifying the language in some areas. Fierman cited the layout and presentation of all topics as major strengths of the book, as well as the abundance of small group exercises as a modicum of learning.

Student Action Committees and SAC Forum

From April 14-17, IFES, in cooperation with the Association of Young Leaders (AYL) and with financial support from AED, conducted a national Student Action Committee Forum in Almaty for 101 participants from 27 SACs and 10 Student Councils (AYL Project) from all regions of Kazakhstan.

IFES has been implementing the Student Action Committee (SAC) project in all regions of Kazakhstan since 2001. Many SACs have already been established and have fulfilled at least part of the envisaged projects. It is now critical to review their results, exchange

experiences, improve networking, report on successes and recognize SACs for conducting outstanding work and implementing successful projects. In taking steps to institutionalize its civics projects, IFES identified the Association for Young Leaders (AYL) as one of the best local youth NGOs that could propel the IFES SAC project into the future. AYL implements a School Council (SC) project in about half of the regions of Kazakhstan. Goals of the SAC and SC projects are very similar. However, SC focus on identifying and solving internal school problems and SACs are intended to target issues that affect the local communities surrounding schools. Because of the similarity of the two projects, both face challenges in implementation of both projects within the schools and those that involve community outreach. One issue is that there is no established relationship between SACs and SCs. The lack of cooperation between the two projects creates conflicts of interest in student, administrative and community participation. In order to be more effective, the two organizations need to work together and combine their efforts to create a stronger association that would coordinate efforts and enable students to address internal school problems and community based problems. Another idea for strengthening the combined organization is the creation of a joint network of SACs and SCs throughout the country by creating a website with an interactive forum where the student organizations will be able to share their successes and support one another as they implement projects in all regions of Kazakhstan.

In order to address these issues, IFES conducted the Forum in Almaty for 75 IFES participants and 25 AYL participants. Almaty was chosen as the most suitable place for the SAC Forum with regard to transport facilities. IFES selected the best SACs from different regions of Kazakhstan and brought their presidents, 3 active members and the teacher mentors to Almaty for the event. Among the 25 AYL participants were active members and mentors from SCs throughout Kazakhstan.

Objectives of the project were to:

- Establish relationship between SACs and SCs;
- Encourage SACs and SCs to combine their efforts to create a stronger association that would coordinate efforts and enable students to address internal school problems and community-based problems;
- Create a joint network of SACs and SCs throughout the country by creating a website with an interactive forum where the student organizations will share their successes and support one another as they implement projects in all regions of Kazakhstan.
- Provide participants with leadership skills and tools (presentation and public speaking, conflict mitigation, organization of proper meetings, creation of a team);
- Provide participants with necessary tools to conduct SAC/SC training for their peers and future leaders in schools;
- Organize an environmental clean-up activity in partnership with American Councils Alumni Association in Almaty for all Forum participants and partner organization members as a part of Global Youth Service Day.

The Forum proved to be a great success with all goals achieved, including comparing best practices as well as lessons learned from working with members of the community and local government. During the forum participants shared their experiences, established a nationwide network and acquired new skills of communications and leadership. On the fourth day of the Forum, participants worked in partnership with American Councils and IREX exchange programs alumni to conduct an environmental clean-up activity in Gorky Park as a part of Global Youth Service Day. Both the Forum and the GYSD event received significant media coverage.

The following results were achieved at the conclusion of the Forum:

- Better understanding among students and educators of the importance of community involvement in addressing the challenges of building a viable civil society;
- New initiatives on the development of future SAC plans and new ideas for SACs' future work;
- Increased experience in problem solving, community activism, civil society and local governments that will be used by participants after completion of secondary schools;
- Public information via media about SACs activities and encouragement of more schools/students to establish SACs;
- Partnerships among school administrators, SCs and SACs to develop activities that address issues and problems that schools face;
- Increased MOE department awareness of SAC/SC projects.

Participants developed the following products/activities:

- 1) Participants developed a strategy for SACs and SCs to work together in a mutually beneficial relationship within a school;
- 2) Participants made presentations on their activities based on solving local community problems;
- 3) Participants practiced conducting mock school elections for school government leaders;
- 4) Participants practiced public speaking tools and presentation skills;
- 5) Participants participated in an environmental clean-up activity as a part of Global Youth Service Day and gain practice on organizing similar events in own community.

IFES and AYL expect the following follow-up actions from participants to take place:

- 1) Conducting a presentation on the Forum for peers and school administration;
- 2) Development of an action plan for the next school year 2005 – 2006 according to the IFES SAC manual;
- 3) In October 2005 - to send IFES feedback information on activities, possible problems, statistics;
- 4) Conduct SAC/SC trainings/meetings to educate new members and classmates;
- 5) Prepare and submit Success Stories to IFES including pictures and other illustrative materials.

After returning to their hometowns after the Forum, several SACs initiated their own independent environmental cleanup projects.

Student Local Government Day (SLGD)

IFES worked closely with the Ministry of Education to send letters out to local government bodies in all regions of Kazakhstan, encouraging them to take part in the SLGD project. During the 3rd Quarter, IFES worked with local officials and regional coordinators to organize the events. Events were conducted in Akmola, Pavlodar, Atyrau, South Kazakhstan, Aktobe, Karaganda, West Kazakhstan, North Kazakhstan, East Kazakhstan, Taldykorgan and Zhambul regions of Kazakhstan plus Almaty and Astana. In all 21 events were held, involving 428 students, 160 teachers and 268 government officials in the project.

The SLGD manual was updated and printed in both Russian and Kazakh languages. Manuals and certificates were sent to participating regions.

Democracy Summer Camps

Lists of participants for national camps to be held in Aktau and Pavlodar and the regional camp at Tau-Samal near Almaty were finalized after IFES reviewed over 500 student applications. 20 students from throughout Kazakhstan were selected for the regional camp at Tau-Samal. A total of 150 students from northern Kazakhstan (Pavlodar) and western Kazakhstan (Aktau) were selected to participate in the national camps.

IFES identified venues for the Kazakhstan summer camps to be held in the west and north of the country. IFES staff traveled to Aktau and Pavlodar to make arrangements for the two summer camps to be held near those cities, with applications sent to regional coordinators for distribution.

IFES staff attended a regional summer camp meeting in Bishkek. Staff from all three participating countries developed an agenda and selection processes for participants and trainers. They also discussed important issues such as logistics, transportation, materials, health and security.

IFES worked on securing additional financial support and donations for all three camps from local and international donors. Kazagermunai and Motorola donated \$5,800 and \$375 respectively. Siemens donated 13 T-Shirts to be used as prizes for participants of DSCs. The letters were also sent to Nelson Petroleum Buzachi B.V., Nations Energy Company LTD and Shell Kazakhstan Development. PetroKazakhstan donated 270 T-shirts as the presents for all participants. In addition, IFES staff worked on drafting campsite rent agreements, prepare list of participants, providing supplies, conducting pre and post test of local camps participants. IFES worked closely with ALY trainers on developing the program and training modules.

Civic Education Study Tour of Romania

On May 21, IFES conducted a pre-departure session for Civic Education Curriculum Development Study Tour participants at AED offices. Participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan traveled to Romania from May 22 – June 1, 2005 to learn about interactive teaching methodology, civic education, and curriculum development. Upon their return, IFES staff met with the Study Tour participants from Kazakhstan to discuss the results of their visit. The participants reviewed their experiences in Romania and discussed the lessons learned that they could apply in their own work. Romania, which has a well-developed education system that features civic education, presented a good model from which to learn and extract best practices. Participants expressed their commitment to working on curriculum reform, and underscored their support for IFES projects and willingness to work with IFES closely in the future. The visit enabled IFES establish closer working relation with key Ministry personnel responsible for textbook development, which will greatly aid IFES' efforts to advance the project and gain approval for the next phase to begin in 2005-2006.

Election Assistance Inquiries

Though its Astana office, IFES attended meetings with the CEC and discussed opportunities for cooperation with Chairman Onalsyn Islamovich Zhumanbekov and Tatyana Vitaliyevna, who are responsible for working with foreign governments and international organizations. Both expressed their interest in working with IFES.

On May 26, IFES staff member attended the CEC State Workshop on “Election Commission Goals and Objectives for 2005 Elections.” CEC and election commission representatives from all regions of Kazakhstan attended the event. Zhumabekov discussed problems, issues and future plans with participants. At this meeting it became clear that, subject to AID and Embassy approval, there could be several potential areas for IFES assistance in the area of elections and political processes.

Questions to be asked about election of Akims:

- 1) Is it worthwhile to elect Akims?
- 2) Should any age limit be introduced for candidates?
- 3) What types of voting could be used: open, secret, direct, indirect?
- 4) What kind of mandate should Akims have: imperative or conditional (in other words - how should they be impeached or recalled from their positions and for what reason)?
- 5) What requirements should a person meet in order to be nominated as a candidate?
- 6) Should the system of Akim elections be introduced throughout the country or just selectively in particular regions?
- 7) Is it worth trying to elect Akims in rural areas?

General questions about elections/government:

- 1) Does the season and day of elections influence your decision to participate in elections or not? (maybe winter season and Sundays are more preferable for voters)
- 2) Will you vote if elections are announced?
- 3) Will you encourage your friend to vote?
- 4) Is it your duty, responsibility or right to participate in elections?
- 5) What form of government do people want to have in KZ: parliamentary or presidential?

IFES staff participated in public hearings on “Ways to Improve Parliament Regulation in Kazakhstan” organized by the Republican Network of Independent Monitors (RNIM).

Jennifer Wilson, IFES Chief of Party, initiated an internet group for sharing information about elections and politics in Kazakhstan

(<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Kaz-Elections>). By the end of June the group had 118 members.

IFES received an invitation from the Almaty CEC to attend a seminar “On preparation for the next elections of deputies to the Senate of the Parliament of RK” scheduled for

August 19, 2005. IFES was invited to attend CEC sessions open to the public conducted every second Tuesday of the month, which are designed to be informational and educational ahead of experimental elections of rayon Akims scheduled to be held by December 6, 2005.

While IFES sees an opportunity to effect positive change in the administrative and voter informational aspect of local and national elections in Kazakhstan, it remains weary of the prospects of conducting actual work in this sector due to the strong possibility of strict laws governing the work of international NGOs being adopted. IFES has taken its lead from USAID and the Embassy when discussing the sensitive topic of elections, and remains firmly in an information-gathering mode in the event that USAID seeks to revisit the possibility of working in support of fair and open elections in the country.

III. MATERIALS PRODUCED¹

- 3 separate SLGD manuals (for students, teachers and officials) published in both Russian and Kazakh
- SAC Forum Final Report
- Revised Volume I of Russian and Kazakh language civic education textbook Citizenship and Participation in Governance: Your Role in the Society of the 21st Century
- Revised SAC manual in Kazakh language

IV. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Relations with the Ministry of Education

During the quarter, IFES had a lot of contact with the Ministry regarding some initial negative feedback received about the latest edition of the IFES textbook. There has been a lot of confusion within the Ministry due to recent changes in officials. IFES sent an official to the Ministry requesting that they review the textbook again involving a committee of reviewers who will include all student books and teacher's reviews in their evaluations. IFES was contacted by Boglan Kaparovna of the Republican Retraining Institute who is reviewing the textbook again at the Ministry's request.

Contrary to the one negative Ministry assessment, the IFES civic education textbook received a very positive review from Professor Bill Fierman in a project implemented by AED in cooperation with the Ministry. IFES-Kazakhstan worked closely with the Ministry in preparation for Professor Fierman's workshop, held in Astana on May 4-5.

IFES was disappointed with the apparent overall lack of interest demonstrated by Ministry of Education officials during the workshop with Professor Fierman. IFES discovered that the second review of the book (started in April) was done only so that the reviewer could make a presentation during Fierman's workshop. She gave a positive statement about the IFES textbook during the workshop but there is no written documentation. There are still

¹ Available upon request

changes taking place within the Ministry which continue to complicate relations to some degree.

However, all branches and subdivisions of the Ministry are interested in IFES trainings and exchange of information on curriculum design and development of standards. They would like to organize a big international conference in the spring of 2006. This idea will fit nicely within the framework of a TARF that has been proposed to the USAID/AED.

Relations with Academy of Education

Mr. Pusinov was appointed the new President of the Academy. He expressed interest in cooperation with IFES and suggested that a cooperative agreement be signed. At his request, IFES ran a workshop on curriculum design for Academy staff. The workshop was well attended and both the President and participants expressed gratitude to IFES for assisting in their work on introducing the western curriculum design approaches.

IFES prepared a Protocol of Understanding between IFES and the Academy of Education and sent it to the Academy of Education for review. IFES continued to work closely with the Vice-President of the Academy, Ms. Dzhadrina. She expressed her gratitude at having participated in the Civic Education Study Tour to Romania. Ms. Dzhadrina stated that she gained a useful experience which will contribute to her work on the curriculum reform at the Academy and, by extension, with IFES. The entire Academy benefited from the experience obtained in the course of the tour.

IFES and the Academy of Education started a joint project for creating a Generic Teacher's Guide for Kazakhstan by adapting a similar guide prepared by IFES in Kyrgyzstan.

Points of Note:

- Internal issues within the Ministry of Education continue to interfere with progress on the textbook project.
- Ongoing inspections by local government bodies take up much time and interfere with the flow of project work.
- New draft laws in Kazakhstan are a major concern for IFES. If adopted, they will certainly hinder the implementation of the civic education program. The environment in Kazakhstan is tense now and it seems that government institutions and partner organizations have been warned against cooperating with international organizations. New draft laws on national security were signed by the President. New draft laws regarding NGOs in Kazakhstan were passed by the Majilis and Senate in June. They will be reviewed by the Constitutional Court and considered by the President in July-August.
- SACs established in some distant regions of Kazakhstan have not been sustainable. IFES staff will address these issues during summer camps this year.
- An inspection by the Attorney General's office continued throughout April; all international organizations must go through this. The duration of the inspection was set at one month but IFES has received no confirmation regarding the completion or extension. The Attorney General's office has received all necessary materials and documentation from IFES but has not issued the final documentation on the conclusion of the inspection and the results.

V. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Performance Indicator	Indicator Definition & Unit Measure	Data Source	Data for Q3 FY 2005	Data FY 2005 (Q1+Q2+Q3)	Projections for FY 2005
Curriculum Development					
# of New Students Participating in the Civic Education Course	Student Participation and Reach of the Textbook and New Teaching Methodologies	Participating Schools	19 new schools, 285 students	63 new schools; 2,527 new students	20 new schools and 600 new students added
Teacher Trainings					
# of teachers participated (# of trainings conducted)	Teacher Participation and Reach of New Teaching Methodologies	IFES	183 teachers, 5 trainings	290 teachers, 10 trainings	300 teachers trained
Student Action Committees					
# New Students Participating in SACs (# of Women)	Student Participation and Reach of Extracurricular Civic Education Activities	Teachers/Mentors	665 new students (432 women)	756 students (490 women)	240 students participating
# of SACs Formed (# of Activities)	Reach and Activeness of SACs	Teachers/Mentors	24 SACs formed 54 events /activities conducted	60 SACs formed in FY05; 154 events/activities conducted	16 new SAC events conducted
Student Local Government Days					
# of Students	Student	IFES	414 students,	428 students,	160 students

(# of Government Officials) Participating in SLGD	Participation and Reach of Extracurricular Civic Education Activities That Promote Real-Life Learning		261 officials, 20 SLGDs	268 officials, 21 SLGDs	participated in SLGDs held in 8 different locations
Democracy Summer Camps					
# of Camps conducted (# of students participated)	Student Participation and Reach of Extracurricular Civic Education Activities That Promote Real-Life Learning	IFES	3 (1 regional; 2 local); 170 students	3 (1 regional; 2 local); 170 students	1 local camp for 75 participants; Sought additional funding to send Kazakhstan students to the regional camp
Information Resources					
# of Hits on the Website	Awareness and Interest in IFES Resources	IFES	Contained in report for IFES-Kyrgyzstan	1978 (# of hits on KZ site)	