

FY 2006 QUARTERLY REPORT (2ND QUARTER)

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

KYRGYZSTAN

Civic Education On-Site Technical Assistance

Submitted to the

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

By IFES

January 1 – March 31, 2006

I. OVERVIEW

The second quarter of 2006 saw IFES move even further along with the completion of the process of introducing the second part of the text nationally, with various editions prepared in three languages nationally going to the printing press. A new round of teacher trainings was offered by IFES along with the new text, allowing many teachers either first time access to teacher training in critical thinking skills or a refresher course for those with experience of the earlier text. During the Quarter, IFES moved forward with its extension of the program upwards into the tertiary education system.

II. PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES

Civic Education Textbook Project

During this quarter IFES-Kyrgyzstan finalized the contents of the Civic Education textbook Part II (for 11th grade students) and the accompanying teacher's guide in Kyrgyz, Russian and Uzbek languages. The finalized proofs were sent to the printing house for the final layout and printing.

The Russian version of the textbook had gone through a final layout in the beginning of January, 2006 and the printing of it was scheduled for the end of the quarter. Russian versions of student books will be published in the Freedom House Press House in Bishkek.

IFES, jointly with Vice Speaker of Joghorku Kenesh of Kyrgyz Republic - Deputy Alymbekov's apparatus, arranged a ceremony to hand out the first copies of the Kyrgyz version of the textbook to schools. The event took place in Karakol, Issyk-Kul oblast, on January 15, 2006. A number of international guests attended, including representatives of the Ministry of Education. Deputy Alymbekov, who was an honorable guest of the event, noted:

"IFES's presence in the Kyrgyz Republic gives a lot of hope for the future. The office is well known for the projects that bring concrete results. One of them is Civic Education project that aims to explain rights and responsibilities to young voters and encourages them to be active citizens."



David Mikosz, Chief of Party in the Kyrgyz Republic, with Deputy Alymbekov then Vice Speaker of Joghorku Kenesh

IFES' Chief of Party in the Kyrgyz Republic, David Mikosz, commented on how active the Karakol youth were during the Presidential elections in July. He emphasized that IFES was pleased to start distribution of Civic Education textbooks to schools in the city of Karakol. Youth in Karakol have always

Karakul city, Ceremony introducing the Kyrgyz Version of Civic Education Textbook, Part II

**Aida Ormosheva,
Teacher, Karakol City:**

"The Civic Education Textbook for grade 11 students is a long awaited project for schools. Using the textbook's first part in schools brought a lot of changes in students' behavior. Students are always eager to discuss tasks in the textbook. They say that texts given in the textbook are easy to understand".



Karakul city, Ceremony introducing the Kyrgyz Version of Civic Education Textbook, Part II



taken an active interest in educational campaigns. For instance, he noted that over 5,000 young people attended the “Rock the vote” concerts in Karakol during the Presidential elections in 2005.

This year’s round of textbook publications enables IFES in the Kyrgyz Republic to reach out to every 11th grade student in the country. With funding from USAID and additional cost-share support from the Japanese Embassy and the OSCE Center in Bishkek it was possible to print 57,000 copies of student books in the Kyrgyz language, 16,500 copies in Russian and 8,500 copies in Uzbek.

Teacher Trainings and Civic Education Textbook distribution

The massive Civic Education Textbook distribution began in the very beginning of the 2nd Quarter as well as another critical part of the civic education project - teacher trainings. Training content was focused on the one-year experience gained from teaching the Civic Education course. Conveying retraining in critical skills and active learning methods, the trainings are an anchor of the overall textbook program.

The first trainings in Kyrgyz commenced on January 14 in **Issyk-Kul oblast** (in Aksuu rayon). The last training in the oblast was on January 24. The chart below reflects the training participation numbers:

Represented provinces of Issyk-Kul	Number of participants
Aksu rayon	41
Karakol town	8
Tyup rayon	29
Issykul rayon	29
Balykchy rayon	8
Ton rayon	30
Jetioghuz rayon	32
TOTAL	177

IFES distributed a total of 6028 textbooks based on the number of 11th grade students in Issyk-Kul oblast.

In the beginning of February, ten teacher trainings were conducted in six regions of the **Osh oblast** for schools in Kyrgyz language: Karasuu rayon, Uzgen rayon together with schools of Uzgen town, Osh city, and Nookat rayon. A total of about 11,350 copies of textbooks and about 240 Teacher Guides were distributed at these ten trainings. Though bad weather conditions had complicated training participation in Karasuu rayon, teachers took the opportunity to join trainings in neighboring regions.



In mid-February, almost simultaneously, IFES held trainings in two other regions- **Batken** and **Chui** oblasts. A total of about 12,250 textbooks and 200 Teacher guides in the Kyrgyz language

Loading Civics textbooks for the Jalal-Abad oblast

were delivered for trainings in Batken oblast. About 7,185 textbooks and 220 Teacher Guides in Kyrgyz were distributed in Chui oblast.

Beginning in March, trainings in the Kyrgyz language began in the **Talas** and **Naryn oblasts**. Kyrgyz language teacher trainings will shortly be completed. Trainings for the Naryn and Jalal-Abad oblasts were held in the end of March. Five more trainings will be conducted for the mountainous schools of Osh oblast before April 15.

As for trainings in the Russian language, they also began in the end of the second quarter for schools of Chui oblast and Bishkek city, where the greatest number of Russian schools is located. Following ten trainings of trainers (ToT), the team branched out to run further trainings in the provinces. These trainings will be completed by the beginning of April. In total, 18 trainings have been held for 387 schools working in the Russian language around the country.

Uzbek versions of the Civic Education Textbook and the Teacher Guide were submitted to the printer at the very end of the Quarter. It is expected that the printing job will be completed before the end of April. Teacher trainings will start immediately after that.

Civic Education Teacher Training Feedback

In almost all trainings, Civic Education teachers displayed keen interest in the material the Civic Education textbook had to offer. Teacher participants requested trainers for IFES to develop a textbook for grades nine and under.

One of the concerns teachers often cited was a sudden increase in the number of students in schools next year. Teachers fear that textbooks provided by IFES will cover only 70% of students next year, even though this year IFES distributed one textbook per student. Therefore, teachers requested reprinting of additional textbooks for the following school year.



Class group discussions in action

IFES-developed textbooks have now been in use at schools nationally for a year. However observations from trainings show that only a limited number of teachers have acquired proper use of interactive teaching methods in classes. IFES currently focuses its trainings in the areas of classroom management technique, step-by-step class planning and leading a class discussion towards the course objectives.

During the trainings, both rayon and town education department representatives were very cooperative. They admitted that previously, due to the lack of published material on Civic education and on the Kyrgyz Republic generally, teachers had to use books published in the Russian Federation school system, although those textbooks do not have any content about the Kyrgyz political system or other country-specific topics that are essential for students to know.

Within the trainings, plenty of time was devoted to discussions about teachers' difficulties and acknowledging achievements. Training on the IFES textbook Part II was an opportunity for trainers to help retrain the civic education teachers with teaching methodology assisting them in improving their classroom management with interactive student problems encountered during teaching.

For teachers, it was also an excellent chance to share their experiences about teaching the Man and Society course with colleagues from neighboring schools with whom they do not often interact.

Many teachers noted that their students started enthusiastically participating in civic education lessons as they learned to work in groups, become tolerant of each other and freely expressed their viewpoints as well as linked classroom learning to life outside of school.

Tajibaeba Aygul, Teacher at Gymnasium #1, Isfana town, Batken oblast:

"It was lesson for the 10th class and I was called to director. Then I had to leave my class for half an hour. Later when I came to teacher rooms after classes there were teachers discussing and analyzing the lesson that they took part. Then one of the teachers who knew me said that they were discussing my lesson. But I said that I was called by director and I didn't conduct the lesson. Then I found out that it was my student who conducted lesson. The guest-teachers were so surprised about experience of my student that she easily could organize class and also organize discussions and students together made conclusions. I think it is due to textbook's construction and also it shows how the knowledge given in textbook was absorbed by my students. "

Tynaliyev Marat, Subanbekov School, Kyzyladyr village, Talas oblast:

"At my lessons on citizenship it's great to see that my students have their own position, point of view, in contrast with before when they didn't use to have that independence when almost always they would simply agree with what I say. Now they argue, they try to prove their point of view; they bring facts, find arguments to defend their position. I think it will greatly help in their future life."

Chalov Temirbek, school # 6, Talas town:

"After using IFES' textbook my students had changed their vision on the society that surrounds them, and the situation in general. For example, after studying topic "Election system in the Kyrgyz Republic" my students asked me why there were so many irregularities in current election system of our country and there was a big and interesting discussion of this topic in the class."

Jumatayev Taalay, Lyceum # 28, Toktogul town:

"Last year I learnt to evaluate knowledge and skills of the students of on Man and Society course. The new methodology helped me teach my students to fairly evaluate each other as well. I think that even by this methodology they learn to live fairly without bribing someone or thinking that if it's your close friend you should judge honestly anyway."

Civic Education Textbook Project Sustainability

During this period, IFES officially presented an electronic version of the Civic Education curriculum materials for grades 9-11 to the Ministry of Education. These materials were developed and printed by IFES in the past year. The Academy of Education of the Kyrgyz Republic played a major role in material distribution to schools. This year the Ministry of

Education showed initiative to print and distribute the materials. This means that IFES' materials will be officially recommended by the Ministry of Education for use in schools and it will provide sustainability to the IFES developed textbooks in schools, a significant victory on achieving sustainability in the textbook project.

Student Action Committees (SAC)

During this Quarter, IFES-Kyrgyzstan held three work meetings enhancing SAC training materials and renewing some parts of the SAC Manual.

A total of 55 participants attended a pilot SAC training in Bishkek in the beginning of March, 2006. Attendees consisted of: 43 students and 12 teachers from 12 schools of Bishkek (38 girls and 5 boys). At the end of this training, IFES distributed 30 pilot SAC Manuals to the participants and schools.

After trainings, trainers conducted four work meetings preparing for the future SAC trainings later in the next quarter. The modules of the SAC trainings were updated taking into consideration the comments received during the pilot training.

In the end of March (March 25-26, 2006) a total of 44 participants attended the pilot SAC training in Naryn. There were 34 students and 10 teachers from 10 schools of Naryn rayon (23 girls and 10 boys), where 35 pilot SAC Manuals were distributed.

IFES-Kyrgyzstan is in the process of organizing the IFES Alumni conference. The process started with Civic education teachers leading SACs in recommending the two-to-three most active students from each school. Then, all the students were contacted directly and informed about the competition and its requirements. Approximately one hundred former SAC members from the years 2002 to 2005 who also studied civic education textbook were informed. All applicants were required to send an essay and current contact information to participate in the competition.

As of the end of the 2nd Quarter, forty applications were received.

III. PARTNERS

Kyrgyz Academy of Education

During this Quarter, two-day workshops were organized for the Kyrgyz Academy of Education branches in Issyk-Kul and Jalalabad oblasts, including teacher re-training Institutes. During the workshops, participants discussed the current status and future perspectives of civic education policy as well as interactive learning approaches. It was a joint project of the Academy of Education and IFES, and funded by USAID through the American AED. These workshops aim to further institutionalize IFES' Civic Education textbook project on oblast levels. Teacher re-

«I understood that I'm part of this society, republic and state, that needs me like I need them»

«We learned the rules and methods of problem solving and we learnt that problems are never resolved by themselves; it is us who must take actions to solve them»

«By solving social problems we grow individually»

training Institutes personnel will incorporate interactive learning approaches into their curriculum.

National Testing Center

In the beginning of the 2nd Quarter, the National Testing Center requested IFES assistance in designing test questions on the Civic Education subject to be used for Annual School Olympiads and graduate exams. IFES had submitted an initial set of test questions designed by its specialists.

Red Cross

IFES, the Red Cross Regional Office and the National Testing Center under the Ministry of Education had agreed to run a joint training for Civic Education teachers. Teachers will be trained on how to design test questions for Civic Education classes. One of the trainings will be organized for teachers from the Southern three oblasts in Osh and the other training will take place in Bishkek for teachers coming from the Northern oblasts. This project has been initiated by the National Testing Center and IFES with the Red Cross Regional Office agreeing to share costs.

IV. NEW INITIATIVES

Civic Education for Universities

In February, 2006, IFES presented pilot materials created for universities on the subject of civic education. There were two seminar-conferences on “*Civic education in Universities: problems and solutions*” organized as part of the tertiary education project. The first seminar-conference was organized in Bishkek city (at Slavonic University) on February 9-10, 2006. Representatives from most universities and institutes (both state and private) were presented. In total, twenty-three participants registered. There were also four people from Karakol, Naryn and Talas towns.

The second seminar-conference was organized in Osh town (at Osh Oblast Library) on February 12-13, 2006. There were representatives from universities located in the south of the country from Osh, Jalalabat, Batken, Mailisuu, Kyzylkiya towns, the total of 16 participants. The program contained topics on the current situation with civic education in universities, teaching civic education in universities, their problems, and ways of solution. Teachers actively participated in the sessions, practical work, and discussions. Teachers’ responses identified that there is no curriculum on civic education for universities, and usually there is no particular lessons for civic education. As a result, it was decided to publish materials of the conference and create a working group that will be gathered to develop curriculum of civic education for universities.

Participants were asked to send comments and suggestions on the IFES-developed compact discs and teachers’ guide. Based on those comments and suggestions, some of them will be invited to a civic education teachers’ conference, to be offered in May-June, 2006. Participants were given a briefing packet with two CD-ROMs on civic education (comprising the 1st and 2nd editions of the IFES texts), a teacher’s guide on interactive teaching, and the methodology of additional tasks, topics for discussions, questions-answers, and bibliography. Books on election systems,

and a handbook for holding shadow elections by students were given to the teachers so that they could use them as additional material for civic education lessons. Participants in the northern session asked to set up a working group to continue program development ideas for IFES on designing civic education courses for university students.

V. PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

IFES Kyrgyzstan is moving into the third quarter preparing its summer camp program and schedule of SAC activities nationally. At the same time, nearing the end of a successful multi-year civics program, - really the first donor-funded civics textbook ever successfully introduced into the national school system with the complete support of the Government and local educational authorities - IFES Kyrgyzstan continues to devote time to enhancing the sustainability of the project through involving local partners such as the Kyrgyz Academy of Education in all aspects of the program, and to begin to find ways to transfer the highly successful textbook and complimentary outreach programs to local partners such as the Academy of Education and the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education.

**STATISTICS ON THE TRAINING PARTICIPATION AND CIVIC TEXTBOOK
DISTRIBUTION BY REGIONS OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

Indicator	& Unit of Measure	(January 1- March 31, 2006)
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Curriculum Development

# of New Students Participating in the Civic Education Course	Student Participation and Reach of the Textbook and New Teaching Methodologies	# of Participating Schools Kyrgyz 1,453 Russian- 359, Uzbek- 186	1,998 Female: 42,419, Male: 37,760 163,179 students will be involved: Female: 87,569, Male: 76,000.
Number of learners enrolled for FY05 80,179			
For FY06 Grade 10- 81,119 Grade 11- 74, 707			

Teacher Training

# of Teachers participated in	Teacher participation,	IFES	1,654 teachers participated in
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Trainings in Kyrgyz Language				Trainings in Russian Language			
Regions	Textbooks distributed	Teacher guides distributed	Number of teachers trained	Regions	Textbooks distributed	Teacher guides distributed	Number of teachers trained
Student Action Committees				IFES Pilot Schools			
1 Yssykkul oblast	6028	577	177	1 Chui oblast	8007	(22)	428
2 Batken oblast	7185	240	155	2 Yssykkul oblast	1665		102
3 Osh oblast	11350	240	263	3 Batken oblast	367	63	22
4 Chui oblast	7185	220	220	4 Osh oblast	1260		52
5 Naryn oblast	5250	128	134	5 Naryn oblast	N/A for the Quarter	11300	604
6 Talas oblast	4005	101	101	TOTAL	22600	1208	604
TOTAL	41003	1066	1050				

Democracy Summer Camps

# of Students Applying for Summer Camps (# of Participants)	Student Participation, Awareness, and Interest in Extracurricular Civic Education Activities	IFES	n/a for Quarter
% of Students with a Better Understanding of Democratic Values	Increased Understanding of the Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens Who Value Democracy	IFES	n/a for Quarter
% of Students Expressing Interest in Civic Activism	Impact Extracurricular Civic Education Activities on Behavior	IFES	n/a for Quarter

Information Resources

