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FOCUS ON AFGHANISTAN

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Cover photo: English language instructor Muhammad Ismoil Sharif engaging with students at the Teacher's Training College (TTC) in Shugnan, Afghanistan, where UCA-SPCE delivered professional development programmes for instructors in English language and information technology.

The University of Central Asia (UCA) was founded in 2000. The Presidents of Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Kazakhstan, and His Highness the Aga Khan signed the International Treaty and Charter establishing this secular and private University; ratified by the respective parliaments, and registered with the United Nations. The Presidents are the Patrons of UCA and His Highness is the Chancellor. UCA's mission is to promote the social and economic development of Central Asia, particularly its mountain societies, while at the same time helping the different peoples of the region to preserve and draw upon their rich cultural traditions and heritages as assets for the future.

The First Word

Here at the University of Central Asia (UCA), the most common questions our readers ask are: “What is developing at UCA now?” and “What are you doing in each of your campus countries?”

These queries have inspired our 3rd issue of Q-News. We spotlight UCA’s growing programmes in Afghanistan, with stories on our graduation ceremony in Faizabad and a new agreement between UCA and the Afghan Government to lay the foundation for future training activities and more.

Our Naryn campus continues to remind us of both the past and the future. Did you know that archaeological findings are being excavated from the main campus site? Read about UCA’s second annual football tournament hosted at our world class sports facilities (the first facilities open to the public on our Naryn campus site). Our centre spread highlights activities at our Tekeli, Kazakhstan location.

Following our previous Q-News story about building entrepreneurial capacity in Almaty, Kazakhstan, discover our social development initiatives there. We hope you enjoy reading about our unique collaborative construction project involving our School of Professional and Continuing Education alumni, students and instructors in Khorog, Tajikistan.

Finally, our Research and Learning section highlights a number of new projects being developed by UCA’s research institutes. To learn more about these and other news stories at UCA, please visit: <http://www.ucentralasia.org/news.asp>.

We look forward unfolding our activities in the coming issues and to hearing from you.

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In our next issue:



160,000 Cubic Metres of Rock Being Cleared at Khorog Campus Site



Phase I Construction of Naryn Campus Launched



On Location: Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic



5th Graduation Ceremony Celebrated in Dushanbe

and more...

UCA to Deliver Certificate in Policy Analysis to Afghan Civil Servants

“By bringing the expertise of UCA in building capacities of civil servants, AKDN is broadening its programming in Afghanistan to include university-level training for central government staff. This is an initiative that will grow over time.”

The University of Central Asia (UCA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Finance, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, on 22 July 2013. The MoU enables UCA to deliver a Post-Graduate Certificate in Policy Analysis (PGCPA) to ministry staff and other civil servants.

It also enables UCA to develop other training and research initiatives as requested by the Ministry. The Memorandum was signed by Afghan Minister of Finance, Dr Hazrat Omar Zakhiwal, and UCA Director General, Dr Bohdan Krawchenko.

“I am sure the partnership between the University of Central Asia and the Ministry of Finance, Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, will go a long way in improving the skills and knowledge of Afghan civil servants in public policy and assist the government in delivering better policies to its people,” said Dr Hazrat Omar Zakhiwal, Minister of Finance.

“Understanding that the issues facing Afghanistan are complex and there are few easy solutions, the objective of this programme is to help improve the analytical skills of civil servants dealing with formidable policy agendas,” said Dr Bohdan Krawchenko, UCA Director General.

Mrs Nurjehan Mawani, Diplomatic Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in Afghanistan added, *“By bringing the expertise of UCA in building capacities of civil servants, AKDN is broadening its programming in Afghanistan to include university-level training for central government staff. This is an initiative that will grow over time.”*

A rigorous programme focused on economics and methods of policy analysis, the PGCPA will be delivered by UCA’s Institute for Public Policy and Administration with the assistance of its Canadian partner, Carleton University. The programme will be delivered in 2014 and then again in 2015.

Nisar Keshvani

Programmes to Build Capacity in Afghanistan

The School of Professional and Continuing Education’s **Cross Border Vocational Education in Badakhshan** (CVEB) project addresses instructor preparedness and skill development through training that responds to labour market needs. In Phases I and II, CVEB fostered cooperation and job creation between Badakhshan, Afghanistan and Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO), Tajikistan.

In September 2013, CVEB III was launched to deliver professional development programmes to 60 secondary school instructors from GBAO, Tajikistan and Badakhshan, Afghanistan. CVEB is an initiative of UCA in collaboration with

the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Aga Khan Foundation USA. So far, 160 scholarships have been awarded to Afghan learners. Between 2009 and 2012, through CVEB and other programmes, UCA-SPCE reached over 1,300 Afghan learners with academic and professional development programmes and Dari-language learning resources in English, accounting and information technology.

Through the **Regional Cooperation and Confidence Building in Central Asia and Afghanistan** project (2011-2012) 15 Afghan civil servants participated in a regional training on trade economics, policy analysis and international trade negotiations

Academic Achievement Ceremony for Afghan Learners in Faizabad



IT instructor Mirwaiz Nazar Ali, who completed his International Computer Driving License and Methodology Certificate programme, is congratulated by Dr Bohdan Krawchenko, UCA Director General.

On 30 June 2013, the University of Central Asia's School of Professional and Continuing Education (UCA-SPCE) held an Academic Achievement Ceremony at Kokcha Palace, Faizabad to recognise 18 Afghan instructors graduating from UCA-SPCE's professional development programmes in English and International Computer Driving Licence certification.

The programmes were delivered, in partnership with Aga Khan Education Service Centres in Badakhshan and the Teacher Training College (TTC) Shughnan, with support from the Coca Cola Foundation.

Among the chief guests were Dr Gul Mohammadi Bedor, Deputy Governor of Badakhshan; Dr Abdul

“This ceremony recognises the efforts and individual achievements of SPCE learners, while celebrating a positive step toward building professional educational capacity within Afghanistan.”

with civil servants from Central Asia. In its second phase (2013-2014), the project will focus on the role of small and medium enterprises in regional trade. It will publish original research; conduct a cross-sectoral symposium in Kabul; and mentor IPPA's first three Visiting Research Fellows selected from the ranks of Afghanistan's civil service. These efforts are supported by Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development.

The Research and Public Policy Initiative (RPPI) (2013-2016) will work to ground policymaking processes in Afghanistan and Central Asia in sound evidence and policy analysis by building the capacity of researchers to con-

duct independent studies and by expanding the ability of policy professionals to utilise such research in policy development. Among other activities, SPCE will adapt and deliver its Local Economic and Community Development Certificate programme; IPPA will deliver a Post-Graduate Certificate in Policy Analysis; and the Mountain Societies Research Institute's Central Asian and Afghanistan Research Fund will support a network of young Afghan and Central Asian researchers. RPPI is supported by International Development Research Centre and the Aga Khan Foundation Canada.

*Katarina Czarniak
Ian Brown*



Graduating class at UCA's inaugural Academic Achievement Ceremony in Faizabad, Afghanistan.

Ghafuri Furugh, Head of the Economic Directorate, Badakhshan; and Nematulloi Darkhoni, Academic Deputy Director of Badakhshan University.

UCA's Director General, Dr Bohdan Krawchenko, congratulated the graduates and said, *"This ceremony recognises the efforts and individual achievements of SPCE learners, while celebrating a positive step toward building professional educational capacity within Afghanistan."*

In northeast Afghanistan, over 1,300 Afghans have completed UCA-SPCE programmes in

English, IT and Accounting Technology. In 2012, UCA-SPCE launched a programme to support professional development of government teacher training institutions and private education centres in rural provinces of Afghanistan.

Seventeen Afghan students from UCA-SPCE's Cross Border Vocational Education in Badakhshan project were also recognised, graduating from SPCE courses in Accounting Technology, English for Academic Purposes and the IT Microsoft Office Specialist programme.

Central Asia and Afghanistan Research Fellowship

The Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI) recently launched the Central Asia and Afghanistan Research Fellowship (CAARF). CAARF is designed to strengthen the capacity of researchers from Afghanistan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic to conduct original research focused on learning from and informing sustainable development in mountain areas. The programme offers substantial financial, technical and mentorship support. Fellows are expected to produce an article on their research for publication in a peer-review journal, as well as policy briefs for wider audiences.

Over 60 researchers applied to CAARF, submitting research proposals via an online application system. A team of UCA-affiliated scholars and external reviewers are evaluating the proposals, which represent disciplines ranging from agriculture to seismology, and include topics ranging from the social impact of mining projects to labour migra-

tion. Selected fellows will receive financial support and training based on their particular needs.

"In addition to providing training and research funds, CAARF offers a unique opportunity for young Central Asian researchers to connect with regional and international scholars and peers in their field of research," says Christian Hergarten, MSRI Senior Research Scientist.

Mentorship is a key component of CAARF. Fellows will work with international mentors on a project with applied significance for Central Asian mountain societies. This will facilitate the development of professional relationships between CAARF fellows and more experienced colleagues. It will also enable fellows to join and develop the global community of scholars that transcends institutional, disciplinary and international borders and focuses on the development of mountain regions.

Mokhira Suyarkulova

From Mountain Hazards Conference to Mountain Guide Training

MSRI Attends Mountain Hazards Conference

From 16 to 17 September 2013, the Mountain Societies Research Institute's (MSRI) Drs Horst Weyerhaeuser, Chad Dear and Mokhira Suyarkulova attended the *Mountain Hazards 2013: Natural Hazards, Climate Change and Water in Mountain Areas* conference in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic.

IPPA-SIPRI Gender, Employment and Social Cohesion Project Underway

On 4 September 2013, an Institute of Public Policy and Administration team met with representatives of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in Bishkek to discuss a joint Gender, Employment and Social Cohesion project. From 9 to 10 September, the team visited schools in Osh, Jalal Abad and Naryn to finalise evaluation methods and initial data collection.

MSRI Research Fellow Presents at Tajik Economic Forum

MSRI Research Fellow Qobiljon Shokirov presented MSRI's Background Paper on *Mountain Tourism and Sustainability* at the 1st *International Economic Forum: Investment Opportunities of Development in the Pamirs* hosted by the Tajik Ministry of Economic Development and Trade from 30 to 31 August 2013.

Cultural Heritage Research Showcased at The Christensen Fund Reception

On 23 August 2013, UCA Senior Research Fellow Dr Elmira Köchümkulova showcased her research projects, which are partially funded by The Christensen Fund, at their annual reception in Bishkek. These projects are the basis for several UCA publications on Kyrgyz cultural heritage and reflect the University's commitment to cultural preservation.

Mountain Guide Training in Khorog



In August 2013, eight UCA-SPCE Khorog Mountain Guide graduates participated in *Mountain Medical and Practical Climbing* training courses, facilitated by Fulbright scholar and American Alpine Club member Robert White and partners from the Sentinel Outdoor Institute, Pamir Alpine Club, Pamir Eco-Cultural Tourism Association, Aga Khan Foundation, Tajikistan and SPCE Khorog.

MSRI at Biodiversity Steering Meeting

From 3 to 4 July 2013, UCA-MSRI Director Dr Horst Weyerhaeuser participated in the 7th International Steering Committee meeting for the Biodiversity International/UNEPGEF Project *In situ/On Farm Conservation and Use of Agrobiodiversity Horticultural Crops and Wild Fruit Species in Central Asia*.

UCA in Tekeli, Kazakhstan

In October 2013, University Communications spent time with campus colleagues in Tekeli, Kazakhstan.

Preparatory works for main campus construction continue as the professional nursery team prepare for winter. Instructors at the School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE) are reaching adults, youth and secondary school students with academic enrichment, English-language and professional development courses. We hope that the energy and hunger for knowledge that we encountered in those lively classrooms are captured in this gallery.

In the coming issues, watch this space for an ongoing view of what's happening on location at UCA campuses across the region.

Mikhail Romanyuk



Panoramic view of Tekeli, Kazakhstan, location of UCA's future campus along the Dzhongar Alatau mountain range.



Nursery staff plant and fertilise apple plants which will be replanted around the Tekeli campus once construction begins.



UCA staff working on the pine nursery in advance of the winter season.



English for Youth: A peek into Gaukhar Ismailova's English lessons for schoolchildren.



English Evening Classes for Adults: Kalamkas Bitayeva engages in a lively conversation with her students.



Basic Accounting: Most of Alexandra Niden's students aspire to be accountants or entrepreneurs.

Information Technology Classes: Nazgul Alpiyeva engages Grade 7 Academic Achievement Programme students.



Archaeological Discoveries at Naryn Campus Site



Archaeologist Dr Kubat Tabaldyev indicates the location of archeological discoveries on the Naryn campus site.

The University of Central Asia's (UCA) mission to help the peoples of Central Asia preserve and draw upon their rich cultural traditions and heritages as assets for the future came alive when valuable archaeological evidence was found on its campus site in Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic.

UCA was aware that its campus location included archaeological sites based on studies conducted by historian and archaeologist Dr Kubat Tabaldyev during Soviet times. In 2012, these sites were carefully relocated under the supervision of community leaders.

During a seismic study of the campus site, older remains and petroglyphs were found. UCA approached Dr Tabaldyev, now teaching at Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University, to coordinate a comprehensive archeological survey of the area. Dr Tabaldyev has extensive expertise in the Naryn region and a long-standing relationship with UCA.

He worked with the School of Professional and Continuing Education and his seminal work, *Ancient Monuments of the Tien-Shan* was published by the UCA Cultural Heritage Book Series in 2012.

"Dr Tabaldyev skillfully weaves together descriptions of physical artefacts with living cultural traditions in his work, creating synergy between

"These ancient sites are invaluable; they tell a story of the roots of the people of the region... UCA's support reflects their commitment to preserve cultural heritage."

the past and the present," said Dr Bohdan Krawchenko, UCA Director General.

With support from UCA, Dr Tabaldyev is leading a team to determine the historical significance of the site. *"Engaging in this work now means decreasing the chances of the history on these sites being lost,"* said Dr Tabaldyev, *"This work would not have been possible without financial support from UCA."*

Dr Tabaldyev and his team found 20 ancient internment sites, memorial fencing, petroglyphs, signs on stones and artefacts which span the Stone, Bronze, early Iron and the Middles Ages and indicate a pattern of continuous settlement.

The team will excavate another 20 sites, and submit a final report to the Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Culture and UCA.

Shahida Atabaeva

Social Development Initiatives in Almaty Region



Staff and students at the Social Innovations Project opening.

Partnership launches Social Innovations Project

On 31 May 2013, the University of Central Asia's School of Professional and Continuing Education (UCA-SPCE) launched its Social Innovations Project, in partnership with the British Council, the Multidisciplinary College No. 7 of Astana and the National Medical College of Almaty, with funding from the Chevron Corporation.

The project helps young people from disadvantaged groups acquire information and skills to build successful careers and lead healthy social lives. It reflects the goals of the Social Modernisation Programme and the State Education Development Programme of Kazakhstan for 2011-2020.

Three hundred college students from across Kazakhstan will attend training on social entrepreneurship and project management at UCA-SPCE Learning Centres and will intern with non-governmental organisations.

"The training seminars and activities are designed to help participants improve their problem

solving, communication, English language and computer skills. They also promote the development of social consciousness, which is integral to creating a better society," said Zalkar Kamalov, Deputy Director, UCA-SPCE.

Social Management Training

UCA-SPCE in Taldykorgan provided training for 30 Almaty social workers on Social Management: Fundamentals of Social Work for Children with Disabilities facilitated by Raikhan Sissekenova, UCA Manager of Government and Community Relations in Kazakhstan.

Participants learnt new models of support and specialised management skills for working with vulnerable populations. They also developed their communication skills and engaged in activities and discussions on social work concepts and techniques working with children with disabilities.

"We've learned a lot, not only about the work of social workers in Kazakhstan, but also the work of our colleagues abroad," said workshop participant, GE Chokanova.

"The training seminars and activities also promote the development of social consciousness, which is integral to creating a better society."

2nd Annual Football Tournament in Naryn



Kyrgyz Prime Minister Jantoro Satybaldiyev kicks off UCA's 2nd Annual Football Tournament finals.

Kyrgyz Prime Minister Jantoro Satybaldiyev kicked off the University of Central Asia's (UCA) 2nd Annual Football Tournament finals at its Naryn campus on 31 August 2013. The tournament was part of the celebrations commemorating the Kyrgyz Independence Day.

Prime Minister Satybaldiyev was in Naryn on an official two-day working trip. Other guests included Kanatbek Muratbekov, Governor of Naryn Oblast, Batyrbek Jeenaliev, Mayor of Naryn Town, and Grant Robertson, UCA Director of Construction.

Four teams, RTS, Kokotoi, Borbor and Ak-Korgon made it to the semi-final round to vie for the cham-

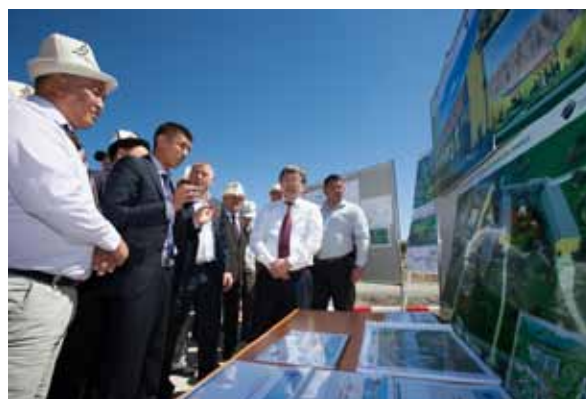
pion's trophy. In a closely fought final match, RTS beat Borbor, 3-2, to win the tournament.

"This tournament is a testimony of UCA's commitment to encourage a sporting culture within the Naryn community. Our sports facilities were built by residents of Naryn Town and Tosh-Bulak village and we will continue to work closely with them as construction of the Naryn campus commences," said Robertson.

During his tour of UCA facilities, Prime Minister Satybaldiyev and Naryn Governor Muratbekov rolled up their sleeves to have a short tennis rally on the courts and then proceeded to review plans for the first phase of campus construction.

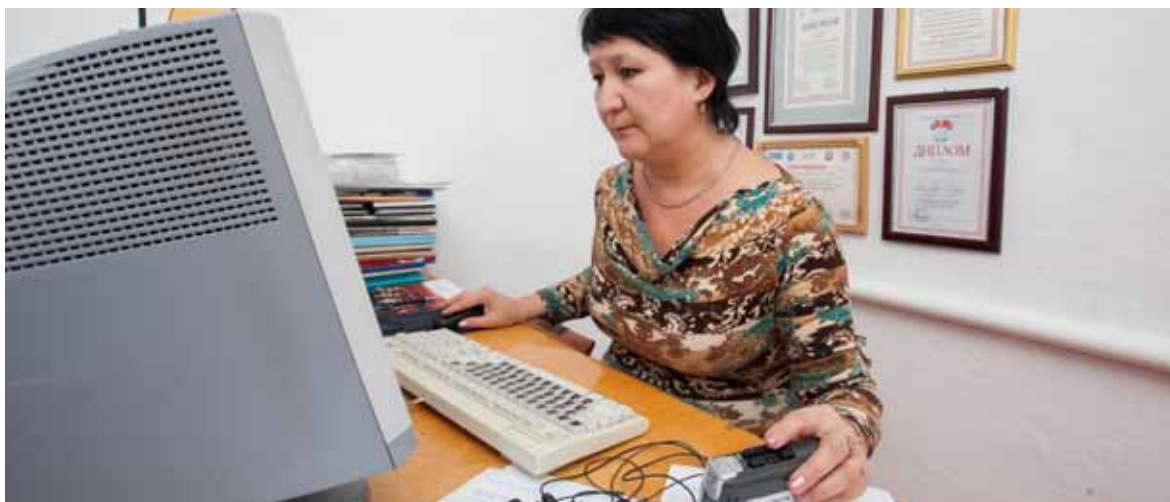


Naryn Governor Muratbekov returning Prime Minister Satybaldiyev's serve on UCA's tennis courts.



Prime Minister Satybaldiyev reviews plans for Phase I campus construction.

Kyrgyz Journalist and IMTAK Trainee wins Award with Article on UCA



Esenalieva at work at her Tenir Too office.

“Journalists should always be objective and this is something that I’ve worked hard to develop and maintain.”

Naryn-based Tenir Too journalist, Klara Esenalieva, was recently awarded first place in the Development Policy Institute’s (DPI) Movement for Budget Transparency national journalism competition in the Kyrgyz Republic. One of her winning articles, *UCA is the Future of Naryn*, was published on 26 March 2013 by Tenir Too newspaper.

Esenalieva, an accomplished journalist with over 15 years experience with respected Kyrgyz newspapers, said, *“The role of the journalist is particularly important in the formation of a democratic society. Journalists have the ability to affect popular opinion. We should always be objective and this is something that I’ve worked hard to develop and maintain.”*

The seeds for the award-winning story were planted in March 2013 when Esenalieva attended a UCA public consultation in Naryn. Dr Bohdan Krawchenko, UCA Director General, highlighted the University’s accomplishments and addressed questions related to construction delays.

Esenalieva countered community complaints by highlighting UCA’s efforts to create opportunities. *“In writing this article, I learnt more about the University and was able to share that under-*

standing more broadly. I think it helped change many attitudes about the UCA project. I know that even my perception of the University has changed,” said Esenalieva.

In 2012, Esenalieva won several national competitions in the Kyrgyz Republic. *“For me, participation in these competitions is my motivation,”* says Esenalieva.

In 2011 and 2012, Esenalieva participated in the *Budget Reporting for Journalists and Media Training* project, implemented by UCA in a consortium with DPI, the Kyrgyz Stock Exchange Press Club and the Alliance for Budget Transparency. Administered by the World Bank and financed by the Global Partnership Facility, the project was part of the *Information Matters: Transparency and Accountability in the Kyrgyz Republic* (IMTAK) initiative.

On 27 September 2013, Esenalieva attended UCA’s media briefing to launch campus construction in Naryn. Her article, *The First Phase of Construction Begins*, was featured in Tenir Too.

Esenalieva hopes to write more articles about UCA; *“I’ve gotten to know UCA and I respect what they are doing. I believe in the future of UCA”.*

Savannah Hallworth

Alumni, Instructors and Students Help Construct New Village School in Tajikistan



“This partnership provided an excellent learning opportunity for our students, an employment opportunity for graduates and a lasting investment in our communities.”

An unprecedented collaboration between alumni, instructors and students of the University of Central Asia’s School of Professional and Continuing Education’s (UCA-SPCE) Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) programme has contributed to the construction of a new village school in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO), Tajikistan.

In June 2012, the Central Asia Institute (CAI) announced a tender to community partners to build a school serving 150 students from GBAO’s Vanqala and Pish villages. When Safo Pallaev heard about it, he knew this was an important opportunity. Safo completed his carpentry programme in 2010 and established his own construction company, LLC Sokhtmonchi 2010. *“I knew that CAI emphasised community partnerships, and it would be a huge step forward for my company if we won the tender,”* he said.

When Safo learnt his company was selected to build the school, he was delighted. He soon became the key player in a network of partnerships bringing together other SPCE graduates, instructors and students. First, he hired fellow alumnus Sherzod Pulodov, who graduated from the accounting programme, to manage administration and finances.

Soon after, Safo was contacted by Ubaid Saidasanov, SPCE’s TVET Coordinator. Together, they designed an apprenticeship programme to enable

graduates and students to support the project. Current TVET students were supervised by alumni and they in turn, were supervised by TVET instructors. Approximately, 30 graduates and student apprentices contributed to the school’s construction.

Student Nemat Otambekov said, *“Through this project, I got the practical experience I needed to graduate and I made some money to support my family.”*

Instructor Muhiddin Ramikhudoev emphasises the importance of the apprenticeship model, *“Many students do not have practical real-world experience. It is our role as teachers to help them find an apprenticeship placement, and as mentors to ensure they learn to advocate for their site safety.”*

The school was completed in July 2013. *“UCA-SPCE is very excited about this partnership with LCC Sokhtmonchi 2010, which provided an excellent learning opportunity for our students, an employment opportunity for graduates and a lasting investment in our communities. We hope to continue this partnership and collaborate on future projects,”* said Saidasanov.

Since 2008, UCA-SPCE has offered TVET programmes in bricklaying/masonry, construction carpentry, plastering and tiling, plumbing, metal working, and automotive electrics, reflecting the needs of the local labour market. Over 300 learners have received TVET certificates from UCA.

Emily Harrison

News Bites

Partnership for Advancing Human Development in Africa and Asia

From 4 to 6 September 2013, Drs Horst Weyerhaeuser and Chad Dear, UCA's Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI) and Jayne Barlow, Director of Development and Partnerships attended sessions on the *Partnership for Advancing Human Development in Africa and Asia* project in Canada. Funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, they visited the Universities of Alberta and British Columbia.

Alumni Association Receives \$6,000 Grant

UCA-SPCE Khorog's Alumni Association received a \$6,000 grant from the Tajik Young Leaders Programme (YLP). UCA trained 16 YLP participants from Khorog, Pastkhuf and Porshnev as professional development trainers from 31 July to 4 August 2013. The new trainers then delivered 24 workshops in their communities.

University Communications Builds Capacity

In July and August 2013, University Communications conducted a series of capacity-building workshops for staff from UCA and other Aga Khan Development Network agencies across the region. The team ran a series of academic preparation workshops for Aga Khan Education Service, the Aga Khan Lycee in Khorog and SPCE students. Workshops were facilitated for UCA staff on a range of communications issues, including writing news and feature stories and a *Handling Media Queries* workshop for construction staff.

IPPA Project Coordinator Attends UNDP Meeting in Almaty

From 17 to 19 July 2013, IPPA Project Coordinator Dr Roman Mogilevskii participated in a United Nations Development Programme meeting on *Central Asian Human Development* in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

New Educational Financing Option for UCA Students

In July 2013, UCA and the First Microfinance Bank announced new educational loan financing, for UCA students, thereby increasing access to University programmes.

UCA Public Lecture Series

July-September 2013

The UCA Public Lecture Series highlights emerging research in and about Central Asia.

- *Access to Education by Ethnic Minorities in the Republic of Tajikistan*, Jafar Usmanov, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Regional Office for Central Asia, 6 July 2013.
- *The Loss of Biodiversity as a Result of Social, Cultural and Economic Crisis in the Context of National and Global Settings*, Dr Saidov Abdusattor, Academy of Science Republic of Tajikistan, 27 July 2013.
- *Sedentary Nomads? Pastoralism, Nomadism, Settlement and Tribalism among the Kyrgyz of High Asia*, Yuri Boyanin, La Trobe University, Australia, 13 August 2013.
- *The States of Central Asia: The Role of Culture in the Formation of a New Geo-economic Situation*, Dr Asliddin Nizamov, Moscow State University, 31 August 2013.
- *The Manifestation of Earthquakes in the area of the Cascade Hydropower Stations on the Vakhsh River*, Dr Sabit Negmatullaev, Academy of Higher Education, 14 September 2013.
- *In the Service of the State: The Place of Tajikistani Soldiers in the Soviet Intervention in Afghanistan and Afterwards*, Markus Balázs Göransson, Aberystwyth University, 17 September 2013.
- *Rule of Law and Administrative Justice*, Dr Pekka Hallberg, University of Joensuu and Supreme Administrative Court of Finland, 26 September 2013.
- *Traces of Life of Fossil Organisms and their Importance for Geology and Science Education*, Dr Dronov Andrey Victorovich, Geological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 30 September 2013.

Full details: http://www.ucentralasia.org/public_lectures.asp



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