



# BIR BAGYTTA

**Issue # 3, July 2014**

The USAID Collaborative Governance Program (CGP) is pleased to present its 3rd quarterly newsletter highlighting its main activities that were implemented between April - June 2014. CGP promotes effective collaboration between civil society and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and works in three interconnected areas, promoting government support for social procurement; building the capacity of civil society through nonprofit management education; providing targeted technical assistance to strengthen CSOs; and enhancing the work of CSO coalitions working on citizen engagement, public policy analysis, greater government transparency, and outreach and services to citizens through competitive grants.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Act Now Grants Program

Available on an ongoing basis based on emerging needs and applicant responses

### Call for Expression of Interest Consultants/Mentors to Support CGP Grantees

July 30 –December 30, 2014

### CSO Assessment

July 2014 - ongoing process further

## Social Procurement: Current Status and Progress

### New Draft Law on State Procurement of Social Services of the Kyrgyz Republic Given to the Ministry of Social Development for Initiation in Parliament

A Working Group, established by the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) in December 2013 worked intensively from January until May to improve the legislation on State Procurement of Social Services. In May 2014, the Working Group finalized its work on the draft Law on SP and provided it to the MoSD to initiate in Parliament. The draft Law on SP, written with international best practices in mind, seeks to overcome the shortcomings of the existing social procurement system, and provides new mechanisms to ensure transparency and efficiency in the system. The bill provides three forms of social procurement: (1) State Procurement of Social Services; (2) State Funding of Socially Useful



*The Members of the Working Group representing MoSD, CSOs, and ICNL are at the First Public Hearings of the Draft Law on SP at Kyrgyz National University.*

Projects; and (3) Provision of Social Services to Citizens with Special Need through Social Vouchers. According to the legislation, the Government will use the State Procurement of Social Services, when the state procurement authority knows the types of services that need to be procured and knows the recipients of such services. The Government will use State Funding of Socially Useful Projects in cases in which the social objectives are known, but achieving those objectives requires innovative ideas from nonprofit organizations. The Government will use the third form, Provision of Social Services to Citizens with Special Need through Social Vouchers, when a network of service providers is already available.

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## Social Procurement: Current Status and Progress

This form of SP has great potential for preventing corruption, as here, compared with state procurement, service recipients will be able to choose their service providers.

### Public Hearings and Discussions of the Draft Law on Social Procurement to Improve the Legislation

The Draft Law on SP has undergone several public hearings and discussions. In April and May 2014, public hearings and discussions of the new draft Law on SP were conducted in Bishkek and in six oblast centers including Karakol, Naryn, Talas, Osh, Jalalabad, and Batken. Over 200 participants representing different state bodies, CSOs, local governments, local councils, Mayors' Offices, Ministries of Social Development and Labor, Migration and Youth, and the Ombudsmen's Office as well as university faculty and students participated in the discussions. During the public hearings, participants proposed more than 120 amendments or additions. Many of these proposals were constructive and were incorporated into the draft Law on SP. On June 2, 2014, MP Dastan Bekeshev said at a roundtable: «Thank you for the work you have done. This is a significant project for me; that is why I am here. Good job! I have just some minor comments and suggestions for amendments, including selection of the grant commission, blacklist



*From right to left: Member of Parliament Dastan Bekeshev providing his comments, Minister of Social Development Kudaibergen Bazarbaev, Head of the Department on Social Development under the President Aibek Djunushaliev, and Deputy Minister of Social Development Jyldyz Polotova at the roundtable.*

of CSOs that were not reliable in implementation of social projects earlier, tax exemption for private and noncommercial organizations and including an option for contracting with individuals – not legal entities». Those who participated in the public hearings supported the draft Law on SP and highlighted its importance and timeliness, noting this improved legislation will raise the quality of social services and will facilitate efficient use of public funds.

## First Annual Non-Profit Management Conference Gathers Its Stakeholders

On June 4, 2014, Kyrgyz National University in cooperation with representatives of the Consortium of Universities and with the support of the Collaborative Governance Program and its partner Johns Hopkins University, successfully conducted the First Annual Nonprofit Management Conference: «The Kyrgyz Civil Society in Theory and Practice».

Over 130 participants, representing the President's Apparatus, the Ministry of Education, USAID, representatives from the civil society and private sectors, and the media actively participated in the conference that served as a platform for discussion of the public-private-civil society sectors' partnership in developing the Kyrgyz



*(From left to right) Kevin Dean, Deputy Mission Director, USAID Kyrgyz Republic; Mira Karybaeva, Chief of the Department on Ethnic, Religious Policy and Liaising with Civil Society under the President; and Roza Sarymsakova, Vice Rector of the KNU, made opening remarks at the First Annual Nonprofit Management Conference*

economy and improving social services. The Chief of the Department on Ethnic, Religious Policy and Liaising with Civil Society under the President, Mira Karybaeva, noted in her remarks: «According to the latest research, 250,000 people currently work in the civil society sector - 12% of all employed Kyrgyzstani citizens. Until recently, almost all CSO initiatives have been supported by donors through grants, but external support considerably decreased lately. Therefore, the President's Apparatus will support partnerships and efforts in improving the mechanism of liaising to strengthen collaboration of public-private-civil society sectors.» Leaders of CSOs including Raya Kadyrova, Seinep Dyikanbaeva, Asyl Aitbaeva, Galina Chirkina, Aida Kurbanova, and Myrza Karimov, and key private sector figures, Nurbek Elebaev and Nurbek Atakanov participated in the panel discussions and expressed their views on improving collaboration among the three sectors.

The Conference successfully showcased diverse views and brought consensus regarding the need for further collaboration among the public-private-civil society sectors in pursuit of further economic and social development in the Kyrgyz Republic. Attendees of the Conference also stressed the importance of introducing a non-profit management curricula into the academic system. For additional information, please visit: <http://1.usa.gov/1xkg0Lt>.

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# Building the Next Generation of Professional Civil Society Leaders

## Internship Program Brings New Vision to the Non-profit Sector in the Kyrgyz Republic

*Aijan Abdesova, the faculty at Kyrgyz National University of Balasagyn*

Thanks to the Collaborative Governance Program, Yrys Beibutova, Dean of the Faculty of International Relations of the Kyrgyz National University (KNU), and I participated in a six-week Non-profit Management Fellowship Program at the Johns Hopkins University's Center for Civil Society Studies (JHU/CSSC) in Baltimore, Maryland. We received valuable experience in non-profit management (NPM). We attended lectures on NPM twice a week and also had a six-week internship



*Professor Lester Solomon (center) with alumni of the NPM Fellowship Program Ajan Abdesova (left) and Yrys Beybutova (right) with Certificates of Completion.*

program in two non-profit organizations (NPOs), and met with representatives of fifteen different NPOs during the internship.

In Baltimore, we lived near JHU, and had a workplace in the JHU/CSSC itself for conducting our academic research on NPM. The six-week program was effective both academically, and in terms of internships with various NPOs in Baltimore and Annapolis in Maryland and Washington, D.C. By the end of the program, I got answers to many questions re: NPOs, and shared my new knowledge with participants of the First Annual NPM Conference.

During my fellowship, I interned with two NPOs: Episcopal Community Services in Maryland and Family Tree. Each had a distinct mission and strategy. The first NPO worked in four areas: preschool education for the poor, providing meals for children at public schools, catering, and training former prisoners for new job opportunities. The second NPO's goal was to provide assistance to children in need, solve social issues, and prevent child abuse. NPOs in the U.S. provide a variety of social services to address the gaps in state-funded social services.

Transparency is vital to the non-profit sector in the U.S. The website <http://www.guidestar.org/> provides comprehensive information about each NPO, including its mission and annual financial report.

This ensures full transparency, so that those who would like to address social needs through NPOs can see their vision and strategy online, and decide which NPO they would like to support. Donors can then monitor

the impact of their funds online, as each organization regularly reports on the status of its activities. Kyrgyzstani NPOs would benefit from adopting this practice, which builds trust and strengthens the partnership among public, private, and civil society sectors.

Another practice that impressed me in Maryland is their formal certification process. The state issues a Certificate of Excellence to NPOs in compliance with 54 standards. A Certificate of Excellence is evidence that an NPO operates effectively in program implementation, human resources, financial management, and fundraising. People provide donations to such NPOs with full assurance that their donation is put to good use.

The role of volunteers working in NPOs in the United States is large, because only 20% of organization's budget is allocated for administrative resources.

I am proud to be part of the movement working to develop the non-profit sector in the Kyrgyz Republic. Teaching courses on NPM in universities of the Kyrgyz Republic will inform the younger generation of the need for education and the necessity of charity and philanthropy in our country and will build the next generation of educated NPO leaders. We have a unique opportunity to explore the experiences of NPOs in other countries. Education on NPM will foster a culture of charity and philanthropy in the Kyrgyz Republic so that people feel happy not only from what they gain, but also from what they give.

## My Osh Twin

*By Nancy Hall, Johns Hopkins University*

On my first visit to the Kyrgyz Republic in March, I found my Kyrgyz counterpart, or, as I like to call her, my Osh Twin. During the Professional Development Workshop, various members of the group were presenting materials that they had developed for a course in Non-profit Profit Management to be taught in various Kyrgyz Republic universities. Most of the participants spoke Russian with some limited knowledge of English. I spoke English with a little of Russian.

We were dependent on a couple of very skilled translators. All was going well until Baktygul Maksytova from Osh began her presentation on the financial section of the Nonprofit Management Course.



*Professor Nancy Hall sharing her extended experience and knowledge of working with nonprofits.*

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## Building the Next Generation of Professional Civil Society Leaders

At one point during Baktygul's presentation, I asked the translator to stop translating because I realized I could understand Baktygul just fine even though she was speaking Russian. There are enough terms that are common between English and Russian that I could follow her description of the course material.

This is when I knew I had an Osh Twin: we spoke the same language. Baktygul and I really got to know each other during our most recent get-together in early June. We share nearly identical backgrounds. We both have accounting training; we have both spent time as Chief Financial Officers for nonprofit organizations; and we both started our teaching careers as finance specialists but have become generalists teaching introductory management courses.



*Baktygul Maksytova during the 3rd Professional Development Workshop*

I call Baktygul my twin not only because of our similar work history, but because we share the same values when it comes to teaching our students. We both want students to become leaders of successful nonprofits. We want them to understand the importance of planning both financially and programmatically; we want them to be responsible stewards of the funds that are entrusted to them, and we want them to maximize impact from what are often limited resources.

Baktygul is my twin, but I have a large extended family of teachers in the Kyrgyz Republic that are committed to introducing the concept of NPM to hundreds of individuals over the next few years. It doesn't take long for education to become action. It is a short path from the classroom to the community. Students will quickly become nonprofit leaders using all the tools that were provided by dedicated teachers. I envision the Kyrgyz Republic in the not too distant future that has a growing, vibrant collection of civil society organizations. These organizations will improve the quality of life for all citizens. The professors that are part of the Professional Workshop Program will be able to observe how their teaching has improved the nation.

Baktygul, all of the other professors, and the staff at East West Management Institute have made this project one of the most interesting and satisfying experiences of my professional life. Thank you, my Osh Twin and thank you, everyone!

### University Academics and CSO Leaders Enhancing NPM Education in Kyrgyzstan

On June 5-6, 2014, Joe McNeely and Nancy Hall, Professors on Non-profit Management at Johns Hopkins University, conducted the 3rd Professional Development Workshop (PDW) for 18 university professors from 8 Consortium member universities, representing Issyk-Kul, Osh, Batken, Jalalabad, Naryn, Talas and Bishkek. During the workshop, the participants continued their work to finalize the 1st course syllabus: "Introduction to the Nonprofit Sector and Nonprofit Management" (NPM) and started developing the 2nd course syllabus: "Nonprofit Organizations in the Modern World: The Roles of the Nonprofit Sector." During the PDW, the participants identified the purpose of the 2nd course and topics that should be taught during the class. The participants developed a work plan and identified homework assignments to be given to students.

Nancy Hall noted, "A great deal of progress has been made in the development of courses on NPM. It was an extremely productive session. We witnessed individual initiative, eagerness to get to work on product, ease of forming small working groups with trusted partners, a high level of mutual respect, increased knowledge of their colleagues' expertise and willingness to call on that expertise, putting in the extra time to revise



*The participants of the 3rd Professional Development Workshop had a memorable photo after two days of productive work*

products and presentations, and commitment to offer the first course."

On the second and final day of the Workshop, Professors McNeely and Hall discussed issues critical to the success of CSOs such as accountability, the role of higher education institutions, and the non-profit sector. The Workshop concluded with presentations from professors on the first syllabus and a closing ceremony.

As a result of three productive PDWs held since December 2013, the course on NPM will be offered in September 2014. At this time, approximately 70 students have signed up for the course at Osh State University and 105 students have enrolled in the course at Kyrgyz National University. In addition, Jalalabad, Batken, and Issyk-Kul State Universities have submitted their Letters of Intent to offer the course in September 2014.

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