

DEMAGAZINE

UNDP Democratic Governance

Chronicles/Stories/Achievements



Полноправные люди.
Устойчивые страны.

QUOTE: ...*There is ambitious task assigned before MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT - to meet the needs of the people, to achieve an effective system of parliamentary democracy, increase the quality of education and health. YOU SHALL ALSO NEED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE CIVIL SOCIETY.* This is an important factor to achieve these all objectives.

Mr. BAN KI-MOON



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UNDP has presented a new methodology that allows making financial assessment of laws

SHORTLY IN DETAILS

Within the framework of the Rule of Law project, supported by the British Embassy Bishkek, *UNDP HAS MADE A PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY OF THE LAWS*. The presentation took place with an active participation of key stakeholders, ranging from MPs, representatives from the President's and the Government's Office, Ministry of Finance, international organisations and civil society institutions involved in public reform and oversight, all noting tremendous importance of the methodology in developing new legislative acts and ensuring sustainability of the judiciary reform.

In light of the numerous recommendations received, UNDP experts will finalise the methodology and present it to the Parliament.

PROJECT "ENHANCING THE DEMOCRATIC RULE OF LAW TO PROMOTE PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC"

<http://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/05/28/undp-presented-a-new->

WHAT WOULD THE ONGOING JUDICIARY REFORM COST the Kyrgyz Government?

UNPRECEDENTED FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PACKAGE OF DRAFT LAWS WITHIN THE JUDICIARY REFORM HAS BEEN LAUNCHED by the *UNDP RULE OF LAW PROJECT*. According to the estimates, the implementation of the new Criminal, Criminal procedure, Criminal executive, Civil procedural code, Code on administrative offences, laws on "Enforcement procedures and status of court bailiffs," and the law on "Guaranteed state legal aid" would cost the Government approximately **40 MILLION USD**.



THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHAMBER HAS DEFINED THE WINNERS OF THE ESSAY CONTEST



The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic HAS PRESENTED PRIZES TO THE FINALISTS of the essay contest on the topic "How the Constitution protects my rights", which was dedicated to the Day of the Constitution of KR; the open day was held for the students of law faculties of five universities.

There were forty four essays, five of which have been recognised by the judges of Kyrgyz Republic as the best ones. The graduate student of the Kyrgyz Academy of Law - Ismail Mamytov has been awarded with first place and received Samsung tablet. Second and third places has been awarded to the female students Iulia Mavlyanova from the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and from Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University - Alia Pavlanova, who received book readers. In addition, all three finalists have been invited to participate in the Summer School of constitutionalism, which would be held by Constitutional Chamber very soon.

Fourth and fifth places have been taken by Malika Dzhumabekova, a student of 1st course in the Kyrgyz Academy of Law and Ulukbek Turdubekov, a student of the 4th course of the American University. Both received prizes - present sets and the opportunity to pass the traineeship in the Constitutional Chamber.

Judges also have noted by separate incentive prize a single schoolgirl - Faiza Kydyrbaeva, a student of class 10-B grammar school №1 of Kant.

The purpose of the competition was to determine the relation of students towards the Basic Law of the country, their understanding of how this document protects the rights of citizens, as well as to raise awareness of students about the activities of the Constitutional Chamber and its role in protecting the rights and freedoms of the citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic.

PROJECT "SUPPORT TO THE OPERATIONALISATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHAMBER OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

PRADEEP SHARMA

DEPUTY RESIDENT
REPRESENTATIVE
UNDP IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



QUOTE:

“Around the world we are witnessing the benefits of OPEN DATA. These include boosting economic growth, *foreign investment*, employment and tourism; *improved public services like health and education*; combating corruption and *arbitrary exercise of powers by officials*; and **improving public sector efficiency**. More importantly, such openness builds trust in the society and empowers citizens in relation to state. It bridges the gap between state and society. Access to data makes people participate in governance on a daily basis and accountability doesn't remain an abstract concept. **It turns representative democracy into a participatory one**”.

CIVIL SOCIETY INSISTS ON RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE OF THE ZHOGORKU KENESH ON HUMAN RIGHTS, CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION AND STATE SYSTEM in cooperation with the Public Foundation "Legal assistance for people with disabilities" CONDUCTED 8 June 2015 a round table discussion "The legal status of persons with disabilities". Parliament members, representatives of state bodies, civil society and international organisations took part in round table discussions. The main issue of the round table was to discuss ratification process of the "CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES" in the Kyrgyz Republic.



QUOTE:

"The Ministry of Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic is fundamentally in favour of ratification of the Convention. We have asked UNDP to count financial expenses, which is necessary for government after ratification the Convention. We also need to take into account our capabilities".

Minister of the Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic
Mr. Kudaibergen Bazarbaev

"WE ARE FOR RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES" SOCIAL PROMO FILM HAS BEEN MADE

Social promo film is about life and problems of people with disabilities. They have barriers everywhere - public transport, roads, crossings, buildings are not adapted for them. Society ignores their problems.

The promo was broadcasted through Public TV channel.

The full version of video is at the following link:

In Russian language:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApyZAunfOF0>

In Kyrgyz language:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrjD3dJQ5hU>



"Widening Access to Justice in the Kyrgyz Republic" Project





*THE INTERNATIONAL
LEGAL EXPERT FROM
LATVIA VISITED THE
CONSTITUTIONAL CHAMBER
OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC*



Ms. Alla Spale (an international legal expert, head of the legal department at the Constitutional Court of Latvia visited the KR to advise the staff members of the Constitutional Chamber in matters of constitutional proceedings) :

“...AMICUS CURIAE (FRIENDS OF JUSTICE) ARE NOT ACTORS, they are - an independent third party whom the judge ask for expert opinion. For example, *OUR OMBUDSMAN INVOLVES IN ALMOST ALL THE CASES*, and it is addressed in the issues related to human rights; if there is a case for economic, social issues - refer to authoritative experts, professors who can give an explanation or give a different angle. In our country, IT IS PRESTIGIOUS TO SHARE THE VIEWS OF OMBUDSMAN OFFICE WITH THE JUDGES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT, to share their knowledge and experiences in the proceedings before the Constitutional Court. The goal is not to protect any sides but rather to bring clarity. Even if the judge do not listen to their opinions when making decisions, their participation will be necessary in the case it is recorded in an official document”.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHAMBER AT SUPREME COURT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC MR. ERKINBEK MAMYROV HAS SAID the Chamber needs a support of Civil Society and the Media in the Kyrgyz Republic to ensure its decisions were explained to citizens. HE has STRESSED the Constitutional Chamber IS ALSO INTERESTED AND HAS A WILLINGNESS TO CREATE A FUTURE AMICUS CURIAE AND HOPES from one side the Constitutional Chamber shall be supported in its work by the society, professional communities, on the other - citizens and experts shall also be involved in the constitutional proceedings and they will contribute together to the strengthening of the legal consciousness of the Kyrgyz society.

UNDP Project "Support to the operationalisation of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic"



DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS' COORDINATION COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION ON IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE BODIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS participated in the meeting of the Head of Government's Office with Development Partners' Coordination Council members 21 May 2015 at the Oval Hall of the Government House. As perspective areas of partners cooperation in implementation of the law **"On public and municipal services"** there were noted such fields as:

- IMPLEMENTATION STANDARDS OF SERVICES PROVISION TO THE CITIZENS;
- **INTRODUCTION ELECTRONIC SERVICES;**
- **Organisation unified service centres;**
- **Development of public-private partnerships;**
- **ORGANISATION OF PERMANENT MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES.**

UNDP Project "Capacity Development Facility"

UNDP LAUNCHES LEGAL CENTRES IN REMOTE AREAS OF THE COUNTRY



In May 2015 meetings with local residents on launching legal centers were conducted in Kyzyl October village and in Dong Aryk village in Chui region. These legal centers will provide local population with free legal assistance. Meetings were held with participation of employees of local self-government bodies, members of local keneshs and representatives of Aksakal courts, women's councils, youth committees and persons with disabilities.

During this event, participants got acquainted with the activities of legal centers. The main purpose of these centers is legal empowerment of target groups, particularly people with disabilities, rural women, children and youth at risk.

UNDP presented for these legal centers technical equipment's like computers, printers, and literature on legal issues. Lawyers will provide local residents with legal assistance on a daily basis.

Project "Widening Access to Justice in the Kyrgyz Republic"

17 mass media and 4 Internet editions will create rubrics on ACCESS TO JUSTICE issues

SELECTED THROUGH COMPETITION TV, radio, press and Internet editions will create special rubrics and COVER ACCESS TO JUSTICE ISSUES DURING 7 MONTHS.

The purposes of this competition are:

- Promoting legal empowerment of vulnerable populations with special attention to rural women, children, youth at risk, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities;
- Improving access to justice and legal assistance in accordance with international human rights standards and recommendations;

According to results of the competition there have been selected:

- 5 TV channels (Public TV company, TV and radio station "Sanat", "Yntymak" (in Uzbek), "Osh Pirim", "Batken public TV company");
- 9 print media ("Erkin Too", "Super-Info", children's magazine "Baichechekey", "Osh janyrygy", "Aimak", "Batken tany", "Kyzyl Tuu," "Biz" (Uzbek-language newspaper and distributed in the Osh and Jalal-Abad region);
- 3 Radio ("Birinchi Radio" (Public TV and Radio company), "Maral", "Yntymak" (in Uzbek language);
- 4 Internet editions ("Kabar Ordo", "KLOOP", "NA"KyrTAG", "Voice of Freedom").

Projects "Widening Access to Justice in the Kyrgyz Republic"/"Improving the rule of law and access to justice for sustainable peace" Projects



Interview: @Aziz_Usupov

UNDP DGP Expert on “Pro Bono Publico”

By Arslan Sabyrbekov



- **WHAT IS PRO BONO PUBLICO?**

It is a relatively new and unprecedented project launched by the UNDP in Kyrgyzstan. The project is related to the implementation of the so-called “*pro bono publico services*”, or in other words, lawyers of law firms providing free legal aid and consultation to the people in need, who due to financial difficulties cannot afford it otherwise. Translated from the Latin, the term means “*for the public good.*”

- **WHAT ARE THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF YOUR PROJECT?**

Our main objective is to introduce sustainable and effective *pro bono publico* program in our country. Given the scale of domestic violence in Kyrgyzstan, initially, our project will aim at securing highly professional and importantly free legal aid to its victims. We also have plans to expand our program to other fields. I would also like to say that *pro bono publico* is a common practice in the United States of America, Europe and several Asian countries, where each lawyer is strongly recommended to allocate 50 hours for pro bono services per year and I remain very optimistic that we can do the same in Kyrgyzstan.

- **WHAT ARE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT MOTIVATING FACTORS FOR LAWYERS TO ENGAGE IN PRO BONO SERVICES?**

Lawyers are guided by various motivating factors when providing *pro bono services*. Many do it out of a moral and professional responsibility and get personal satisfaction from assisting the ones in need. Many are engaged with pro bono work because they realise that it is very much needed for their communities and enjoy that they have indeed made a difference in someone’s life. For young lawyers, pro bono practice is also an opportunity to grow professionally and build network. It is also becoming a practice that before hiring lawyers, law firms look whether this or that potential candidate was ever engaged in pro bono service, turning it into a big comparative advantage.

- **WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR?**

At this stage, we have compiled list of law firms and sole practitioners in Bishkek who are interested in engaging in pro bono work, surveyed them and identified that many of them are ready to allocate at least 10 hours of their time annually for pro bono work. We have also identified beneficiaries of the services, namely 2 women crisis centers, “Sezim” and “Chance.” We have also conducted an international conference to learn international best practices and standards on the provision of pro bono services and have presented to the participants our Kyrgyz pro bono Declaration.

- **WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?**

As a follow up to our conference, we will adopt workable Pro bono declaration with amendments and modifications made. We will also further work on on set of things like standard operation procedures, roles etc. There are also issues related to resource mobilization, since without proper funding any project will not be sustainable.



A RAMP 2 JUSTICE



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UNDP DGP
Media Expert

KARA-SUU DISTRICT COURTHOUSE BUILDING IN OSH OBLAST NOW HAS A RAMP AND HANDRAILS. Entrance steps were renovated and equipped with comfortable ramp and railings, while the staircase was enlarged in compliance with building codes and regulations of the Kyrgyz Republic.

THE RENOVATION WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE OSH JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL COURTS AS PART OF UNDP'S PROJECT "WIDENING ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN THE KR" supported by THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS of Finland. The project aims to widen access to formal justice institution for persons with physical disabilities and limited mobility. SIMILAR RENOVATIONS TOOK PLACE IN BUILDINGS OF NOOKAT DISTRICT COURT, OSH OBLAST, AND OKTYABR DISTRICT COURT IN BISHKEK.

According to Mr. Maynaev Kamilzhan, head of Sezim public foundation, creating an accessible environment in courthouses widens capacities of people with disabilities in protection of their legal rights. "Most of them refuse to fight for their rights in courts, anticipating obstacles, as they constantly have to be accompanied by someone. These conditions make person deprived of rights" says Mr. Maynaev.

Previously, visitors, especially women with young children, elders, people with disabilities and limited mobility had been complaining that obstacles began from the main entrance of Kara-Suu district court.

"Customers are satisfied with the changes of courthouse infrastructure. Elders, women with children, and people with disabilities come to us to express gratitude for the convenient conditions created in the courthouse" says head of Kara-Suu district court chancellery Baltabaeva Marapat. On November 2014 MPs conducted monitoring of courthouses in Osh and Chui oblasts to check their accessibility for people with disabilities in accordance with 52 parameters. Monitoring results revealed that current

judicial system is mostly inaccessible for persons with disabilities.

According to the report based on this monitoring, only two courts have ramps. All other courts have no external and/or internal ramps; none of all courthouses have special toilet cabins for visitors with limited mobility. Court services like chancellery, archive in most courthouses are located on the second or third floors, while neither of them have tactile signs with the numbers of floors. The height of the reception desks in departments varies from 75 to 122cm; the system of tactile, audio and visual information are not available in all court buildings.

In general, 90% of courthouses of the local courts do not meet the standards for local court offices. All courts are situated in buildings that are not designed for judicial institutions. Only 20.3% of the buildings have necessary utilities (central heating, water supply). The court buildings do not meet the requirements for administration of justice. Despite the fact that in 2012 the Judicial Department required 65.7 million soms as 90% of court buildings need modernization, only 23.6 million soms (or 36%) were approved for capital investment.

As a result, people with disabilities rarely take part in trials. Their interests are represented by lawyers, guardians, relatives or representatives who claim to court, because person with a disability cannot participate due to physical limitations.

In this regard, 29 December 2014 Parliament Committee on Human Rights, Constitutional Legislation and State Building tasked the Government to ensure implementation regulations in designing and construction of administrative and residential buildings for people with disabilities; to develop and submit for consideration a bill on approving of building regulations for administrative and residential buildings. Moreover, the General Prosecutor's Office was tasked to carry out supervision over state structures on compliance with current legislation on rights and freedoms of people with disabilities, while Ombudsman was asked to oversee realization of rights on accessing to administrative and residential buildings. In addition, the Parliament Committee requested the Council of Judges to include to budget funds in 2016 for construction of new court buildings and adapting them for needs of people with disabilities.

As a civil servant, I often discussed with colleagues how government bodies should be evaluated, what indicators should be applied and what should be the procedures and what mechanisms.

Almost all government institutions work a lot, even on weekends, they achieve certain results. It seemed that the society saw this work and results and should've appreciated it. But government bodies still encountered criticism from unsatisfied people and NGOs. Often times it was a subjective assessment based on personal experience or information received from the mass media, TV and radio.

How to evaluate the performance of public institutions?

This situation occurred partly due to the fact that in 2000's there was no systematic assessment of government bodies' work. That's why the Government's new initiative to introduce



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CDF Project
Coordinator

Today I'm confident that civil servants understand the need to assess the efficiency of the government's work and support this process. They invest in their work a lot of time and effort, and want that effort to benefit the the country as they are part of it.

As instructed by the boss

Throughout the introduction of the new system, I often heard from civil servants that the institution operates based on tasks assigned set by the head. Working with different government bodies, we see the importance of competent leadership and continuity in policy despite the change in management.

Politically motivated appointment of managers and frequent changes in leadership slows down or stops the institution's work for a month or more. The obvious question is: "Why is there no system of evaluating a manager's work? What are the indicators and achievements? What are the outcomes and impact on society?"

Non-government organizations and society at large debated over the need to assess specifically managers of public institutions, not just regular staff.

Now the boss's work is evaluated too!

Given the above, I was surprised that the little attention was paid to recent adoption of the *Government Decree "On the evaluation of the Heads of the State Bodies of Executive Branch of the Kyrgyz Republic, Authorized Representatives of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in the regions and the Heads of Local State Administrations - Akims"*.

Starting from 2015 the work of state managers such as ministers, committee chairmen, heads of agencies, oblast governors and others will also be evaluated.

This evaluation is based on the objective and verifiable information. It will be differentiated with consideration of an institution's work. The system ensures compatibility of managers' assessment. It also aims to assess achieved results, not the process. Results of the evaluation will be used as a basis to correct human resources policy of the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Evaluation of all categories of managers is based on scorecards, indicators and corresponding institutional mechanisms. Among the managers' evaluation criteria there are such indicators as:

- *Reducing the number of complaints addressed to the Government and the reduction of conflicts in the region to determine the mood of the population in the regions,*
- *Staff turnover, professional development of personnel, availability of reserve staff for effective HR management,* and a number of other indicators.

I hope that the managers performance evaluation will be viable and help to carry out an effective HR policy in the Government and form a professional team of public managers that will work for results and welfare of the country, and most importantly – for improved quality of life of citizens.

“Topic of the day: bosses report too!”

an evaluation system for public institutions launched in 2012 caught my attention. The proposed system was aimed at assessing an institution's work based on four indicators:

1. *Basic indicators.* They evaluate an institution's contribution to implementation of the Government Programme approved by Parliament.

2. *Variable-based indicators.* They are related to the goals, objectives and basic functions of state agency, which define its current work.

3. *Assessment of the Kyrgyz*

Republic based the international ratings.

4. *Population Confidence Index.* Attitude of the population to the work of government agencies.

During 2012-2014 the Government Office introduced this new evaluation system in all public institutions with support of the UNDP and OSI funded "Capacity Development Facility" (CDF) project. It was a very complicated work, not only for the Government Office, but also for the ministries and government bodies.

Almost every week a group of project experts consulted government institutions to help determine indicators and data correctly. A special Expert Advisory Group consisting of representatives of the Government Office, Ministry of Economy, State Personnel Service and CDF project had monthly meetings with the different ministries and agencies to discuss urgent and often controversial issues.

The result of this work – an updated methodology and adoption of additional indicators to be included in the overall evaluation system in 2014. By the way, one of the additional indicators is *the number of complaints and appeals of citizens on low-quality public services.*





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Chief technical Rule
of Law advisor for
UNDP in the Kyrgyz
Republic

KYRGYZSTAN: WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE?

It is time to take action.

I work to ensure that every member of society has full and fair access to justice. I am thus happy to report that we are now too **working towards improving this access** to Kyrgyz men, women, and children with disabilities.

A friend in Kyrgyzstan recently told me about the first time she saw a person with disabilities: She had just turned 19 and left the country to study abroad.

Day-to-day life makes it **easy to forget** the people with disabilities who live among us. There are few accessible ramps in Bishkek.

A recent trip to the northern part of Kyrgyzstan drove this point home even more.

I was in Kara Balta, a remote town populated by fewer than 40,000 inhabitants, and an economy largely dominated by the mining industry.

When I showed up, the main square was filled with a lively crowd who had turned out for an event called **“I exist. I know my rights. From heart to heart.”**

The atmosphere was jubilant, with balloons flying and children playing everywhere. On stage, besides some ceremonial speeches, the audience was treated to entertaining local dances abundant with color and rhythm.

What really struck me, however, were the spectators.

Joining me were over 500 people with disabilities. I learned that they came from residential institutions, orphanages, rehabilitation centres, and specialized kindergartens across the Chuy region. They seemed to really be enjoying the spectacle. I heard someone in my vicinity ask in surprise:

“Where did you find so many children with disabilities?”

It sounds harsh, but the question has a point: All too often, we live as though these children do not exist. To our community – and the Kyrgyz society at large – **they are practically invisible.**

They live among us but are locked into homebound lives due to the overwhelming lack of accessible facilities.



As part of the project, we are planning to **build access ramps** in three court buildings: one in Bishkek and two in Osh.

However, our **engagement will go much deeper** by also bolstering our advocacy efforts for the ratification and implementation of the **UNConvention of the Persons with Disabilities** in Kyrgyzstan.

We recently helped to produce and air a promo clip supporting a dialogue to promote ratification of the convention on public television:

Let’s make children and people with disabilities visible! This will be **the first step** towards a full enjoyment of their rights just like all other citizens.

What are some ways you are working to **ensure visibility** for people with disabilities in your country?

PLANNING AS A DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE REFORM



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DGP Media Expert

One of my favorite German novellas is a story of Michael Kohlhaas, the Brandenburg horse dealer, who gets detained on his way to Saxony on the claim of not having proper transit papers. The Junker demands Kohlhaas to leave his horses as collateral, but upon his arrival to Saxon capital Dresden, Michael discovers that this was arbitrary and fairly demands the return of his property. However, upon his arrival, he finds out that his horses were suffering from hard work and his hired man has been beaten to death. Deeply dissatisfied by the injustice caused to him, Michael files a suit, which gets turned down through political influence of Junker. Not finding justice through legal channels, Michael resorts to criminal means and starts a private war, stating, *"I do not wish to remain in a land, where my rights are not protected. Better to be a dog than a man, if I am to be kicked around!"*

So, what does this story tell us about the rule of law?

The answer is simple, the rule of law forms the fundamental basis of any democratic state and is a key to stability in any given society, with citizens enjoying and exercising their rights and finding justice through proper legal channels. The question is what instruments do we need to foster this process in our modern context?

In the socio-political context of the so-called emerging democracies, or the nations in transition, political scientists mainly cite the presence of strong political will as the major success behind the reform, without giving due credit to literally having **"money"** to foster it. Countries in transition striving for democracy adopt numerous progressive laws and ratify all the existing international treaties without initially making sure that there are enough financial resources to put them into practice. This lack of financial planning puts into jeopardy the overall sustainability of the judiciary reform and even tends to nullify years of work in developing certain initiatives.

To address this pressing issue, our UNDP project has taken a lead step in the development of a special methodology to carry out financial assessment of the laws, or simply put an instrument, which measures the

amount of money you need to implement a certain legal initiative. In our opinion, the development of this methodology is a durable and tangible way for the UNDP to enhance the rule of law in this country by promoting proper planning mechanisms and making sure that progressive initiatives do not simply remain on paper but go out to the field and bring positive changes into people's lives.

The beauty of the methodology lies in its universal applicability. Any new legal initiative can be put into its format, which at the end of the day will reveal its financial cost. So far, it has been used in calculating the package of draft laws within the ongoing judiciary reform which would cost the state budget approximately 40 million US dollars. Given the socio-economic challenges in our country, the implementation might seem to be too costly. However, we must not forget that behind those mathematical formulas, there are lives and destinies of many children, men and women claiming their rights and seeking justice. Even the well-off countries such as Finland needed tremendous amount of finances to carry out judiciary reform and have taken a step-by-step approach in implementing package of initiatives. Kyrgyzstan must follow the same path, if we wish to live in a stable society, whose subjects do not seek justice resorting to criminal means, as the story of Michael shows us.

In my concluding remarks, I would like to say that the lack of financial resources shall not, in any way hinder our people's willingness to live in a prosperous and just society, where people have equal access to the courts, where judicial system is fair and not politicized and where everyone's rights are guaranteed. The proper, in advance financial planning is a way to enhance the further entrenchment of the rule of law in this country and the aforementioned methodology is one of the handy tools along the way. Let us hope that our national stakeholders who already see the value of this tool will be able to make it obligatory and common practice in initiating any new laws.



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Assistant

RURALOYOGI



The upcoming International Day of Yoga has once again reminded me of the interesting day in my life, which left warm and lively feelings in my soul.

Once, on a warm spring day that replaced the cold of winter, I decided to go to the countryside, to visit my new friend Manas – THE HEAD OF AYIL OKMOTU OF KAMYSHANOVKA VILLAGE IN CHUI OBLAST. I wanted to see what he had achieved over the years of work - he is one of the young men in the country who occupies such an important post.

The Kamyshanovka village is a remote village. Transport rarely goes to this place and for 2000 village residents overcoming the distance from the village to the city and back again is a daily challenge.

Young Akim readily shared his achievements - he was quite enthusiastic to speak it out. Through his efforts, with the support of the local community, a lot has been done. The heating system of the school has been repaired. Students now have access to the Internet. The school is equipped with an interactive electronic board and new computers.



A kindergarten for 20 children has been opened under the school. Community centre has been renovated, equipment has been purchased and concerts and local gatherings are being conducted in the building. The irrigation well was drilled, spruces were planted along the main road and street lights have been installed. Now gym and greenhouse are being built in the village. A project for poverty eradication has been launched – eight hundred thousand of KGS have been granted to the poverty-stricken citizens so that they could start their own small businesses. At the same time there is no money from international donors; most of the money comes from entrepreneurs, sponsors whom this young man was able to mobilise to create rural development for the benefit of all residents. Manas spoke about the problems that require new efforts. These issues relate to the need to strengthen the health of women, children, elders and people with disabilities, as well as the need to improve the quality of public services, including the interaction of Ayil Okmotu with regional authorities in terms of electronic document management.

I was wondering how he was going to solve these problems, so typical and painful not only for his village, but for most of the country. I asked him **how he would address the issues of public health and how he finds the balance between hard work of the head of the village administration and the life of a young man.**

To say that his answer surprised me means to say nothing. He said, quite seriously, that health problems of residents could be solved with the help of yoga. Knowledge of its philosophy and techniques could help to find a balance between work and personal life, to clear the mind and relieves stress.

For some time I remained in confusion, before continuing the conversation. It turned out that my companion started to learn yoga without any help from coaches. Now he studies literature and masters the basics of this ancient philosophy, but is already thoroughly in the mood to introduce this sport among the population, especially women, who are engaged in household chores and have no free time for sports activities. At that moment I imagined housewives removing aprons after working day, dressing themselves in sports garments and gathering in the house of culture for yoga.

Of course, he does not claim that all his achievements has to do with this hobby, but he deeply believes that yoga classes might help a person to free the mind from unnecessary thoughts and focus on the main goal - the word so important for all people who want to achieve more in life and leave behind the real results and a good memory.

If we pay no attention to religious side associated with this philosophy and look at the recreational opportunities of yoga, we can say that **yoga is able to synchronise your mind, body and soul, to reveal and to stimulate its internal strength and capabilities.** Yoga can help those people who work hard on a variety of projects aimed at improving people's lives.

"YOGA - IS A SPORT WHICH CAN BRING THE CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT AND RECONCILIATION. YOGA CAN EVEN HELP PEOPLE TO OVERCOME STRESS IN EXTREME SITUATIONS," - said UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

21 JUNE 2015 has been marked as the first International Day of yoga, proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations at the initiative of India. UN General Assembly Resolution of **11 December 2014** was supported unanimously by the representatives of **175 countries** participating in the meeting of the General Assembly – kind of record for the United Nations. The resolution pointed out that yoga gives a "comprehensive approach to health and well-being".

Perhaps, such positive things happen not in vain and we, the people who undertook the assistance in carrying out administration reform, improvement of the socio-economic life of the citizens, peace-building and the rule of law, we need to pay attention to important centuries-old traditions that can teach people the ability to think positively and the ability to focus on the goals that will certainly be achieved if we work hard.

Yoga also has a kind of unifying constituent and isn't this a good way to build an effective team work?

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