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ASSC students improve knowledge on women's rights protection mechanisms

A group of students of the Academy for State and Social Construction (ASSC) under the President of Uzbekistan got acquainted with international and national mechanism of protection of women's rights on 12 December.

The seminar titled "International and national mechanisms of protection of women's rights" is aimed at raising awareness of government officials on international and national documents on protection of women's rights, including the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the recommendations of CEDAW Committee to Uzbekistan.

The CEDAW Convention adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is an international document on the rights of women. Uzbekistan was the first Central Asian country to ratify the convention in 1995 and has reported twice to the CEDAW Committee on its implementation. It is expected that the Government of Uzbekistan will submit its next report to CEDAW Committee in August 2008.

The CEDAW Committee recommended that the Convention and the Committee's general recommendations be made integral part of legal education and trainings of government officials at all levels.

The ASSC trains public sector managers to assume managerial positions both within public administration institutions, such as

equality, stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination, international human rights documents and others.

The seminar was organized jointly by UNDP projects "Improving Public Sector Management Skills through Building Training and Research Capacity of the State Academy for State and Public Construction under the President of Uzbekistan" and Legislative and Institutional Capacity Development for Women's Empowerment in Uzbekistan", implemented in cooperation with the ASSC and Women's Committee of Uzbekistan respectively.



Malika Inakova, CEDAW project manager, delivers presentation

khokimiyats, government offices, Ministries, public and economic organizations, as well as other institutions of public management. The students include middle level managers and young entrepreneurs aspiring for a career in the public sector.

About 25 students of the ASSC participated in the seminar, which took place at the conference hall of UNDP Country Office in Uzbekistan. The participants got familiarized with issues of gender

Muattara Rahimova, manager of "Improving Public Sector Management Skills through Building Training and Research Capacity of the ASSC" project, said: "Such events are important for our students. They learn about international agreements on protection of human rights and women's rights, in particular. This way we contribute to the implementation of recommendations of CEDAW Committee and raise gender awareness of government officials."

HSB students acquaint with activities of World Bank

The students of the Higher School of Business (HSB) under the Academy of State and Social Construction under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan got acquainted with the activity of the World Bank Group worldwide.

Mr. Loup J. Brefort, country manager of the World Bank in Uzbekistan, presented the World Bank Group and its activities in various parts of the world. He also briefed about activities of the World Bank Group in Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan joined the World Bank in 1992 and since the Bank assistance has helped the country improve primary health care facilities for some 4 million people in rural ar-

reas—or about 15 percent of the total population. World Bank assistance has also helped people in the rural western part of the country gain access to safe and reliable drinking water. Assistance to improve water supply in the historic cities of Bukhara and Samarkand is ongoing. In addition, the sanitation system in Tashkent has improved as a result of better waste collection.

The World Bank has also helped the country restore the biodiversity of the wetlands near Lake Sudochie. The wetlands were flushed with over 800 million cubic meters of fresh water from the Amu Darya River, thereby raising the water levels and increasing the incomes of the people living in its vicinity. A project to improve drainage in the down-

stream part of the Amu Darya with significant expected benefits for land quality, the environment, and rural incomes is under implementation.

World Bank assistance has also contributed to raising the quality and price of cotton, Uzbekistan's main export crop, and is helping cotton farmers in 5 pilot rayons pilot a new marketing system that allows them to sell their crop outside the dominant state-order system.

Zohid Askarov, project manager of UNDP at HSB, said: "This seminar was very interactive and useful for the students. I think information, which they received today, will help them in the future to participate in some projects of World Bank or receive loans."

Graduates of Higher School of Business receive diplomas, certificates

Over 60 students of the Higher School of Business received their diplomas and certificates at the solemn graduation ceremony on 30 November 2007. The graduates also received certificates and diplomas of foreign institutions.

The Higher School of Business under the Academy of State and Social Construction under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was created on 18 May 2001 in line with the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers "On the creation of the Higher School of Business under the Academy of State and Social Construction under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan".

The Higher School of Business is a single educational institution with an MBA programme in the country that prepares highly skilled management cadre with deep knowledge about the modern management methods, which are capable to work for proper implementation of the current country policies directed towards liberalization and strengthening of the economic

reforms.

The primary task of the HSB is to prepare highly competent specialists and management cadre through an MBA program that is based on the internationally accepted programs and requirements and in compliance with the tasks and priorities of the ongoing democratic transition policies of the country.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Alisher Doniyorov, the Senior Inspector of the Presidential Apparatus, Mr. Sjahril Sabaruddin, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Uzbekistan, Mr. Irwan Iding, Mr. Amir Hamzah, Representatives of the Embassy of Indonesia, Ms. Manja Hussner, Head of German Information Center of DAAD in Uzbekistan, the professors and staff of the Higher School of Business and other guests. Dr. Mannon Aliev, director of the HSB, opened the ceremony.

All graduates of the HSB were awarded with the MBA diplo-

mas of the Higher School of Business. Some of them also received the diplomas and the certificates of foreign educational establishments.

Nine of students received MBA diplomas of Maastricht School of Management (the Netherlands) and 32 of students got the certificates of the University of Antwerpen as a result of two study tours in May-June and September-October 2007 to Belgium.

Mr. Sjahril Sabaruddin handed over the Certificates of National Institute of Public Administration of the Republic of Indonesia to nine students of HSB, who participated in training programme in July 2007. At the same time, fifteen students received the Certificates of Deutsche Management Akademie in Niedersachsen from Dr. Manja Hussner.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Sjahril Sabaruddin, said the training programme for HSB conducted in July was very successful and it starts long-term

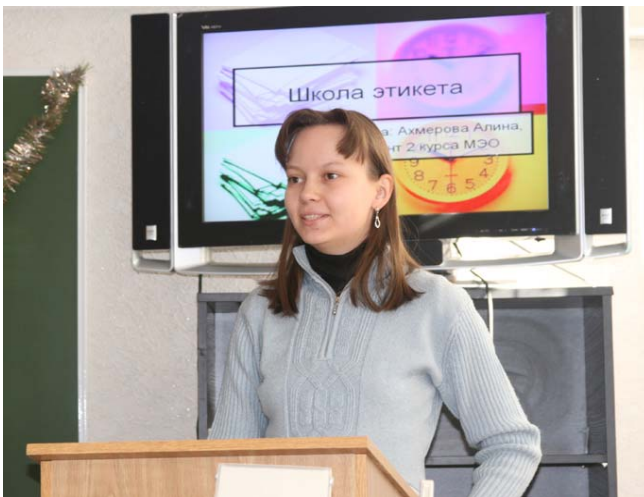
cooperation between HSB and Indonesia.



HSB graduates

UNDP project "Improving Public Sector Management Skills through Building Training and Research Capacity of the Higher School of Business under the State Academy for State and Public Construction under the President of Uzbekistan" aimed to enhance capacity of the HSB to teach public sector management skills to support the development and effective implementation of the public policy in Uzbekistan.

UWED faculty staff members present new teaching methods



Presentation of projects on Curriculum Development and New Teaching Methods was conducted at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED) for students and faculty staff members on 27 December 2007.

The projects were prepared by young faculty

During development of projects, they used methodical tools and e-materials, as well as Internet resources.

Ms. Alina Akhmerova, second year Master student at the Department of International Economic Relations, noted: "This presentation is a good chance for us, young teachers,

staff members of the UWED, who actively participated in the workshops on new teaching methods, including presentation skills, at the Westminster International University in Tashkent in May 2007.

Participants from various Departments of the UWED elaborated their projects individually or in the small groups.

to show how we prepared for a teaching process and share our ideas and skills with the colleagues". While Ms. Guzal Dada-baeva, PhD student, said: "It is a good experience to attend the workshops on new teaching methods and after to apply new skills in practice".

UNDP project "Enhancing the Capacity of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy to Support the Foreign Policy of Uzbekistan" awarded the best projects with prizes, such as digital cameras and flash-cards.

The project aims to strengthen the capacity of the UWED to support the development and implementation of the foreign policy of Uzbekistan through the training of highly qualified specialists as well as serving as an efficient platform for the research and debate over the variety of issues of international politics, economics, regional development, security, etc.

ICT

IT volunteers of UNDP ICTP Project awarded with gifts and certificates

In the world community calendar, the 5th of December is marked as International Volunteer Day. The UN General Assembly in 1985 invited Governments to observe annually, the 5th of December as International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development. By definition, volunteers are those who spend their free time for the benefit of society.

Thus, twenty-qualified IT-volunteers of UNDP ICTP Project received special certificates and gifts for their contribution to the development of ICT in Uzbekistan on the 5th of December. Certificates, which serve as a formal recognition of volunteer work carried out during the year 2007, were awarded at the ceremony on the commemoration of the International Volunteer Day.

Mr. Sanjar Saidkhodjaev, Project Manager, UNDP ICTP Project, noted that the ICTP project volunteers played a significant role in advancing the idea of volunteer activities in the local community, helping to support the activities of the various IT organizations—in 2007 IT volunteers assisted in organizing and holding the 5th Anniversary Summit on ICT, the International Workshop on Broadband, took an active part in the project "Tech Age Girls", TV Show "Tarakkiyot Sari"(Towards the development) and other activities. We would like to mention separately Mansur Nugmanov, Hulkar Razm, Khamidulla Inoyatov, Marat Mamanov, Kamola Faizieva as an exemplary volunteers who contributed significant deal in abovementioned activities.

For their invaluable contribution to the volunteer movement all

activists received commemorative gifts from ICTP Project of the United Nations Development Program.

During celebration party various competitions were organized to test volunteers' IT knowledge, and the results were quite high. All participants of competitions received prizes. Also, IT volunteers shared with each others their goals, achievements future plans. Despite the diversity of opinions, IT volunteers agreed that they would to teach and share IT skills with those who lack capabilities, resources and knowledge in the filed.

ICTP Project through its IT Volunteers Service supports spirit of volunteerism and encourages young people to assist NGOs, public institutions, state entities, and educational bodies to im-



prove the knowledge and skills in ICT sphere and to fully exploit the benefits from more effective use of ICT.

The IT Volunteer Service has its own motto, stating the objectives of the service - Learn IT, Use IT, Share IT.

Launched in May, 2005, the IT Volunteer Service of ICTP Project has currently more than thirty members. They regularly conduct training and sessions in basic computer technologies, web site development, PC maintenance, and etc.