

U.S. Department of Commerce, SABIT Program
Association and Economic Development for
Central Asia Session Participants
(September 11th – October 9th, 2004)

Anvar Abdullaev

Specialist of External Economic Affairs
Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the
Sogd Region
Tajikistan

As manager of the External Economic Affairs department of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Sogd Region, Mr. Abdullaev seeks to promote partnerships for regional businesses and stimulate foreign investment in the region, and is especially interested in building relationships with partners from other Eurasian republics and overseas. In order to build local capacity, he provides seminars and training for small and medium businesses in enterprise development and coordinates activities with other regional Chambers. He also runs advertisements targeting foreign investment and promotes international exhibitions. His efforts are designed to contribute to the development of Tajikistan's export market.

Zamira Akbagysheva

President
Union of Business-Incubators and
Innovation Centers of the Kyrgyz Republic
Kyrgyzstan

Ms. Akbagysheva is the general secretary of the Union of Business Incubators and Innovation Centers in Kyrgyzstan. The Incubator provides direct assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises in their early development stages. From a six-person office, the Incubator provides budding businesses with access to modern office and communications equipment, advice on how to market and expand their business, and training in accounting and other subjects. While in the US, Ms. Akbagysheva plans to find potential business partners and hopes to receive training on fundraising. She plans to hold round-table discussions and a press conference upon her return. Her long-term

goal is to decrease the unemployment rate in Kyrgyzstan through increased development of small and medium enterprises. Ms. Akbagysheva is also the president of the Congress of Women, where she carries both administrative and financial duties.

Shodimurod Aloviddinov

Executive Director
Vatanam Small Town Development
Association
Tajikistan

“Vatanam” Small Town Development Association is a unique non-profit NGO with about 20 members, comprised of small towns in Tajikistan. Vatanam was launched in accordance with a government mandate to develop small cities in Tajikistan. The association promotes social, economic and cultural development of Tajik cities, and educates members in self-management. As the Executive Director of Vatanam, Mr. Aloviddinov manages all training and seminars in the association. He is constantly searching for new economic development ideas and examples of success. He would like to learn about the challenges facing small towns in America, especially those without a manufacturing sector, and see how they create employment. Also, he would like to see how economic development and ecological policies coincide for combined benefits.

Mansur Baratov

Development Specialist
Jer Azygy Association of Agribusinessmen
Kyrgyzstan

The Agribusiness Association “Jer Azygy”, which currently has 150 members, was founded on March 18, 2001 in order to unite public and private sector organizations to develop agribusiness in Southern Kyrgyzstan. As an Association

Development Specialist serving on the Board of Directors, Mr. Baratov conducts elections of the Board of Directors and serves as the main point of contact for the Board. His goal is to establish a Central Asian Center for Associations and to support and advocate the work of associations in the region. Mr. Baratov holds a law degree and believes that through emphasis on advocacy and joint work of regional associations it is possible to transition to the non-traditional democratic governance.

Zhanat Bastaubaeva

Vice-Chairman

The Committee on Market Infrastructure of Zhambyl Oblast
Kazakhstan

The Committee on Market Infrastructure is an independent, four-year-old association that was brought together to create conditions for effective market infrastructure development in the Ahambyl region in Kazakhstan. As Vice-Chair of the association, Ms. Bastaubaeva oversees projects in an agrarian region of about 370,000 people, which provide judicial, marketing and other support for small and medium-sized enterprises. She is currently creating a database of existing businesses in the country and matches them with smaller cities in the region that might have potential markets or partners. She puts together educational programs and recruits western specialists to teach the seminars, as well as for business. Her goal for SABIT participation is to learn about problem resolution within the small business sector in the US.

Davlyatmurad Dzhumayev

General Director

Association for Support and Development of Entrepreneurship
Tajikistan

The Association for Support and Development of Entrepreneurship was created as an NGO in May 2002 to provide

support and protect businesses and legal interests of the Republic's business community. Today the association has more than 11,000 members. Its main goal is to assist in development of small and medium enterprises and accelerate market reforms aimed at stabilization and improving the national economy. Mr. Dzhumayev, the general director, has about 15 years of experience in business development. He is closely involved in USAID and Department of Commerce activities in Tajikistan.

Serik Kairshin

Chairman

Damu Association of Entrepreneurs
Kazakhstan

Association of Entrepreneurs of West Kazakhstan "Damu" was founded in 2002 to work with enterprises in business consulting, drafting of business plans, organization and provision of micro-credits to select institutions. The Association has about 30 members. The goal of the association's chairman, Mr. Kairshin, is to attract more members by providing new, higher quality services and opening branches in regions of western Kazakhstan. He also hopes to have each branch specialize on a specific industry to be able to address and solve the problems of the region more effectively. Mr. Kairshin has degrees in mechanical engineering and economics and is currently working on his law degree.

Balzhhan Kalieva

Chairman

AK Bozat Center of Women's Leadership and Enterprise Support and Development
Kazakhstan

Ms. Kalieva created the Women's Union "Ak Bozat" two years ago in order to support women's business leadership in the Taraz and Taraz regions of Kazakhstan. The basic activities of the association include: involving women in economical, social and political activities; assisting experienced and

beginning business women through legal, consulting, and psychological services; supporting women in furthering their education; and providing charity to minimum-wage families, mothers with multiple children, single mothers, unemployed women and orphans.

Leonid Kim

Chairman
Social Community of Trainers and
Consultants
Tajikistan

The Social Community of Trainers and Consultants in Tajikistan aims to educate and attract rural Tajikistan residents into greater participation in the business and economic life of the country. As the deputy chairman of the Association, Mr. Kim and ten other members—all trainers—provide assistance with project development and management, create new strategies for business organization and fundraising and build linkages between organizations and associations. The principle goal of the association is to become an experienced source of education and fundraising expertise with a broad database and multiple members across the country.

Gulnar Kurbanbaeva

Chief Executive Officer
Entrepreneur Association of the Karaganda
Oblast
Kazakhstan

The six-year-old Association for Entrepreneurs in Karaganda, Kazakhstan represents interests of regional businessmen and provides a forum to discuss their challenges and opportunities. As the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Kurbanbaeva is responsible for writing business plans, budget management, accounting, tax organization, and documenting inventory for the association. Part of his involvement in the business life of the region was initiating creation of the Interregional Council of Social Organizations, which includes 16

associations from other regions of Kazakhstan. The Council's role is to protect rights of businessmen throughout the republic.

Samidullo Makhmudov

Chairman
Chamber of Commodity Producers and
Entrepreneurs
Uzbekistan

As Chairman of the Andijan Regional Chamber of Commodity Producers and Entrepreneurs Mr. Makhmudov manages the overall operations of the Chamber and coordinates meetings with business partners. He has a degree in Political Economics from Belarus State University and another in Principles and Bases of Market Economy from the Uzbekistan Academy of State and Social Construction. While participating in the SABIT program Mr. Makhmudov would like to discover new ways to create and develop business partnerships between Uzbek and American companies.

Zafar Mukhitdinov

Vice-Chairman
Association of Business Incubators and
Technoparks
Uzbekistan

In 2002, the Association of Business Incubators and Techno-parks "ABIT" was created and registered as a NGO, as the result of the Pilot Business and Enterprise Development Project. The project started with three business incubators. Today, ABIT's members consist of 36 business incubators and one techno-park. ABIT has an extensive experience working with UNDP, Eurasia Foundation, SOROS, and Organization for Privatization projects. Mr. Mukhitdinov, the vice chairman of ABIT, responds directly to the Chairman, and supervises a staff of 36 regional managers. Mr. Mukhitdinov is convinced that only by using international experience in creating best strategies for development of small and medium enterprise can ABIT achieve its

long term goal: to expand the activities and services of the organization and its members to the international arena. A successful example of that would be ABIT's partnership with the Association of Business Incubators of Kazakhstan and their work toward a so-called Central Asian Network.

Sabohat Rahimzoda

Chairman

Kadbonu National Women's Association
Tajikistan

The National Association "Kadbonu" is Tajikistan's only business association created specially for women. It is comprised of a business center with 60 pizzerias, an Internet café, international telephone call booths, a sewing workshop, and food production. It also works to lobby the Parliament of Tajikistan to change the tax code in favor of small and medium-sized enterprises. Kadbonu recently began welcoming male clients as well as female. As chairwoman of Kadbonu, Ms. Rahimzoda, with her 28 employees, seeks to break the well-established stereotype in her country that women do not belong in business. Her long-term goals include improving produce processing techniques, levels of child nutrition, and diversifying food-service (by creating carry-out restaurants and fast food businesses, construction of mini-power stations building a domestic fishing industry in Tajikistan. Ms. Rahimzoda is looking forward to understanding the American experience and sharing it with her colleagues and members of Kadbonu.

Kaiurgul Sadubakasova

Head of Legal Division

Women Entrepreneurs Support Association
Kyrgyzstan

The public association Women Entrepreneurs Support Association of Kyrgyzstan was founded in September 1997 by NGOs and businesswomen. The

Association provides educational and legal advice to urban and rural members of all levels of business experience through 31 radio programs and its own TV program. As the head of Legal Division, Ms. Sadubakasova manages a staff of nine regional lawyers. One of her main achievements is establishing regular field trips to rural areas, which enable all members of the Association access to legal consultation and support, regardless of their location. As the Association's lawyer she hopes to learn more about lobbying in the US, as well as about the work of American women associations.

Saltanat Syzdykova

President

Association of Business Women, Kyzylorda Branch
Kazakhstan

The Women Society of Small Entrepreneurs, Kyzylorda Branch (WSSE) has been providing educational, administrative and organizational support to about 130 members, comprised of businesses from small handcrafting shops to consulting companies, since June 2000. As the president of the Association, Ms. Syzdykova oversees the day-to-day activities of WSSE, controls its financial activities, and coordinates interactions with other associations. She thinks that her clients would benefit greatly from the development of micro credit in her area. Her goal of coming to the US on the SABIT program is to learn and understand the core elements of micro-credit.

Emil Umetaliev

Chairman

Bishkek Business Club and
Congress of Business Associations
Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Umetaliev is Chairman of two Associations in Kyrgyzstan: Congress of Business Associations (CBA) and the

Bishkek Business Club. The CBA is a non-profit organization with 18 members, which represents the interests of the local business community, suggests business-friendly legislation to parliament, and promotes small and medium enterprise development. The Bishkek Business Club is a public association of leading businesses and successful companies of Kyrgyzstan that was founded in August 2002 and currently has 13 members. It provides a forum for businessmen to exchange ideas on best practices and success stories.

Latif Valiev

Chairman
Chamber of Commodity Producers and
Entrepreneurs of Samarkand
Uzbekistan

The Chamber of Commodity Producers and Entrepreneurs of Samarkand, Uzbekistan is a non-profit NGO that unites small and medium-sized enterprises, commercial banks and other commercial institutions. The association was founded in 1996 to create favorable conditions for private sector development, attract foreign investment and further integrate the country into the global market. Its daily duties include organizing training for local businessmen, creating international and regional exhibitions, presentations at local firms and companies, as well as other countries, assistance with bank loans and legal advice. As the chairman of the Chamber, Mr. Valiev serves as the bridge between local entrepreneurs and modern laws of business, and Uzbekistan's old system, which is still prevalent in the government. He constantly analyzes the relationship of both and provides guidance and education when needed. The number one project of the association is creation of an Internet-based business portal—the Samarkand Business International—that will enable hundreds of enterprises to integrate and engage the global economy by maintaining contacts with western partners and investors and sharing successful experiences with each

other. Mr. Valiev is looking forward to learning about how information technology is used in US businesses, business interrelation (cooperation) and hopes that the SABIT experience will provide him with knowledge on how to make it possible.

Myrzagali Yermakhanov

Executive Director
Kyzylorda Entrepreneurs Association
Kazakhstan

The eight members of the Kyzylorda Entrepreneurs Association are the most established business firms in the country, representing different industries of the Kyzylorda region in Kazakhstan. The executive director, Mr. Yermakhanov, develops training programs, round tables, and board meetings with a six-person office. The Association has a joint project with the US Peace Corps to develop a "Hospitality School" that will welcome new members of the Association, conduct business orientation and further increase the level of professionalism of members and others in the business community. Mr. Yermakhanov states that the purpose of this association is to help small businesses achieve big goals. He is convinced that the US represents the best example of professionalism for service industries. While in the US he hopes to learn how to educate people involved in customer services and later apply them at the Hospitality School.