

UNIVERSITY
OF CENTRAL ASIA



Annual Report 2016

Kyrgyz Republic | Tajikistan | Kazakhstan



Alcoves in the academic building offer meeting and study spaces.

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ABOUT UCA

The University of Central Asia (UCA) was established in 2000 to offer an internationally recognised standard of higher education in Central Asia and prepare graduates to contribute leadership, ideas, and innovation to the economies and communities of the region. UCA's mission is to foster the socio-economic development of Central Asia, particularly its mountain communities, while helping the peoples of the region to preserve and draw upon their rich cultural traditions as assets for the future. For more information, please visit: www.ucentralasia.org



On the Cover: *The University Library provides students access to a rich collection of books, periodicals and online databases*

Message From the Chairman

As Central Asia's first regional university, UCA fosters the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding between countries and peoples essential to broaden the socio-economic and cultural development of this region, and provide opportunities to their mountain populations.

The highlight of achievements during 2016 was the opening of the first residential campus of UCA in Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic, in September 2016. Of the 500 applicants who competed to be among the School of Arts and Sciences' inaugural undergraduate class, 71 were selected transparently and purely on academic merit and leadership qualities. They are mostly from the Founding States of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, with 59 percent from rural areas and small towns. Women represent 40 percent of the class.

With the generous support of the Chancellor, His Highness the Aga Khan, all students received substantial financial assistance in keeping with the needs of their families, and no student was denied admission due to financial constraints.

For over a decade, UCA's School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE) has established a solid footprint in the three Founding States as well as Northern Afghanistan. Meeting the immediate needs of young people and adults for skills development and professional qualifications,

SPCE has engaged over 97,000 learners from 2006-2016.

The Aga Khan Humanities Project, involving a partnership with some 83 universities and colleges in the region, delivers interdisciplinary humanities courses which have now reached over 140,000 students since 1997. UCA hopes to build upon these successes through its undergraduate and graduate education programmes.

In 2016, UCA's Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI) and Institute of Public Policy and Administration (IPPA) emerged as key regional centres of knowledge creation, each addressing pressing societal issues.

MSRI partnered with the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Programme with the aim to conserve fragile ecosystems and promote sustainable development in Central Asia's high mountain regions.

In December, IPPA achieved a milestone by graduating 21 learners who completed the *Certificate in Mining Policy and Sustainable Development*, the first of its kind in Kyrgyzstan and recognised for its contribution to the extractive industry.

Partnerships with leading academic and private-sector institutions have been, and will



UCA Naryn Campus.

continue to be vital to UCA's success, promoting the exchange of both information and resources.

In the past 12 months, UCA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Toronto to enhance its Computer Science curriculum.

In the coming year, UCA will continue working towards its goal of strengthening Central Asian scholarship and attracting international, regional, and local resources to enable the people of Central Asia to address their own economic and cultural challenges. Pivotal to this objective will be establishing UCA's Board of Trustees and recruiting the Founding Rector, opening the campus at Khorog, and formalising the Graduate School of Development.

On behalf of our Board, faculty and staff, I would like to convey our gratitude to friends, well-wishers and partners for their continued support.

To the students who will continue to play a critical role in the development and growth of the University of Central Asia, I offer warmest good wishes for success. On their performance will depend the quality and reputation of UCA.



With warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shamsh Kassim-Lakha'.

Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha
Chairman, Board of Trustees
University of Central Asia



UCA's First Residential Campus Opens in Naryn

UCA formally inaugurated its first campus in Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic, on 19 October 2016.



“The future of our country is in the hands of our youth. Quality professional education must therefore facilitate the preparation of young people.”

- Prime Minister Sooronbay Jeenbekov

Top left: Kyrgyz Prime Minister Sooronbay Jeenbekov, representing President Almazbek Atambayev, Patron of the University, praised the partnership between the Kyrgyz Government and AKDN.

Top right: Kyrgyz Prime Minister Sooronbay Jeenbekov and His Highness the Aga Khan unveil the commemorative plaque. On the right is UCA's Chairman of the Board, Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha.



UCA achieved a major milestone in September 2016 when classes began at the School of Arts and Sciences in Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic. A month later, the campus was formally inaugurated by Kyrgyz Prime Minister Sooronbay Jeenbekov and His Highness the Aga Khan.

The new buildings on the Naryn Campus represent the first phase of a larger plan for the 252-hectare site, which was a gift from the Kyrgyz Government. Phase I includes 14,000 m² of space that can accommodate 150 students. It features state of the art classrooms, a library, laboratories, student dormitories, faculty residences, and athletic facilities. When the final phase is complete, the campus will accommodate 1,200 students and span 125,000m².

The launch of the Naryn Campus is to be followed by the construction of campuses of equal size and stature in Khorog, Tajikistan (scheduled to open in September 2017) and in Tekeli, Kazakhstan (expected to open in 2021).

The undergraduates in Naryn earned a seat in the inaugural class through a competitive, merit-based and needs-blind admissions process. The University is providing financial assistance to every member of the Class of 2021; no qualified student was denied admission because of financial constraints.

The students come from urban centres, secondary cities and small villages across the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Nearly 40 percent of the 71 students who enrolled in September 2016 are women. Tuition fees, residential



accommodations, meals, and other facilities are heavily subsidised at UCA, and on average students pay only \$1450 per year.

In the first phase of construction, UCA created employment for over 700 people primarily in the Naryn area (as well as over 800 at the Tajikistan site). The University's approach to planning and building is part of a larger strategy to boost local economies by sourcing local and regional materials, strengthening existing enterprises, and promoting the establishment of new ones. By the time the University's three campuses are fully operational, the economic impact is projected to be more than US\$750 million in the Central Asian region.

Following the ceremony, the Prime Minister and His Highness the Aga Khan joined Naryn Governor Amanbay Kayipov for the inauguration of Seitally Jakypov Park in the centre of Naryn. As part of AKDN's broader commitment to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Naryn, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture rehabilitated the Park, creating space for leisure, play and exercise.



“What this University is all about is not only the power of education, but also the power of international cooperation. It is a power that can change peoples’ lives.”

- His Highness the Aga Khan

Above: His Highness the Aga Khan, Chancellor of the University, addressing the gathering.

Left: Government representatives, members of His Highness the Aga Khan's family and AKDN leadership were amongst the guests present at the inauguration.

Photo Credits: Gary Otte

2016 Highlights

Kyrgyz Prime Minister Sooronbay Jeenbekov and His Highness the Aga Khan tour the UCA Naryn Campus with government dignitaries.



Dr. Bohdan Krawchenko, Dean of the Graduate School of Development, speaking at the School of Professional and Continuing Education's Sustainable Development of Mountain Communities Conference.



University of Toronto and the University of Central Asia signed an academic partnership to enhance UCA's Computer Science curriculum. Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha (left), and Professor Meric S Gertler, President, University of Toronto, at the signing.

During his visit to the Kyrgyz Republic on the occasion of the inauguration of UCA's Naryn Campus, His Highness the Aga Khan, was presented the Order of Danaker by Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev. The Order is the country's highest recognition given to a foreign citizen for contributions to strengthening peace, friendship and cooperation.



UCA's Institute of Public Policy and Administration hosted a Forum on Mining Policy with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Economy.



Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha being interviewed by BBC journalist Gulnara Kasmambetova in London, following his presentation on UCA at the Aga Khan Foundation's Breaking the Cycle of Poverty lecture series.



His Highness the Aga Khan speaking with journalists following UCA's Naryn campus inauguration.



The Majlisi Namoyandagon (Tajikistan's Lower House of Parliament), led by Deputy Chairman, Mrs Khairiniso Yusufi (second from right) visited UCA's under construction campus in Khorog.



The Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS), an agency of the AKDN, opened its Medical and Diagnostic Centre in Naryn town.



UCA hosted top students from the region at its 2nd Annual Summer Upgrading Camp, an integrated academic enrichment experience for Grade 10 students.



On the occasion of signing a collaboration agreement between Seneca College and UCA, David Agnew (right), President of Seneca College, announced 12 scholarships for Central Asian students pursuing undergraduate studies at UCA. Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha conveying appreciation.



The Almaty Oblast Akimat in partnership with UCA organized town hall briefings to update the community on UCA's developments in Kazakhstan.



UCA's Mountains Society Research Institute staff work with the local community to install weather stations in Naryn.



SPCE's 561 graduates from across Afghanistan successfully completed courses in Information Technology, Accounting and Languages. Nasima Habibi (right) receiving her certificate from Mrs Nurjehan Mawani (center), Aga Khan Development Network's, Diplomatic Representative in Afghanistan.

School of Arts and Sciences

UCA's School of Arts and Sciences launched its first residential campus in Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic in 2016.

First Undergraduate Class

From more than five hundred applicants, 71 students were admitted to the first class of the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) in Naryn.

The applicants sat for a rigorous English, maths, and logic admissions exam. In addition, they were interviewed to evaluate their abilities, extracurricular engagement, and leadership potential within their communities.

The first cohort was selected by an Admissions Committee composed of academics and professionals from UCA's Founding States of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan as well as international partner institutions.

The students come from secondary towns, remote villages, and urban centres in Central Asia, as well as surrounding areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In 2017, SAS will implement a similar merit-based admissions process in anticipation of the launch of its second campus in Khorog, Tajikistan.

Student Upgrading Programmes

Many Central Asia students complete 11 years of

pre-university education, but the quality varies across regions. To address this challenge, academic upgrading programmes were identified as a priority to recruit and admit talented students.

In 2016, UCA's second annual Summer Camp admitted 80 bright Grade 10 students from across Central Asia. In addition, a Winter Upgrading English and maths programme was delivered to Grade 11 students in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan.

The first of its kind international mentorship programme was also offered to 81 Grade 11 students from Central Asia. The high school students were individually paired with university students currently attending renowned universities in Canada, United States, and the United Kingdom, and provided guidance on academic programmes and campus life.

Recruitment Visits to High Schools

In December 2016, the Naryn Campus successfully held its first Open House. UCA hosted close to 250 students and parents, providing an ideal opportunity to introduce them to its state-of-the-art facilities, student life, faculty, and curricular programmes.

Student-centred instruction and small class sizes encourage participation and dialogue.





UCA's students marched with the community in Naryn's Annual Independence Day Parade.

In 2017, in anticipation of the opening of the second campus in Khorog, Tajikistan, student recruitment efforts are expected to extend to additional countries and high schools.

Preparatory Programme

Based on a 2016 Memorandum of Understanding between UCA and Seneca College, Seneca's curriculum development team delivered the Preparatory Programme consisting of syllabi for foundational courses in English, maths and science.

Seneca worked closely with UCA's Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI), Institute of Public Policy and Administration (IPPA) and the Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit (CHHU) to introduce Central Asian content ensuring the Preparatory Programme is contextually relevant and tailored to the needs of Central Asian students.

Faculty and student feedback reinforce the benefits of an integrated curriculum that connects different areas of study across disciplines and emphasises unifying concepts. They referred to the importance of making connections, which enables them to engage in relevant, meaningful activities related to real life situations.

Recruiting High Quality Faculty

As a start-up university, UCA was tasked with recruiting faculty committed to implementing a unique curriculum. SAS conducted a rigorous selection process to ensure faculty with high quality teaching and research standards, and aligned to the University's mission and values, were hired.

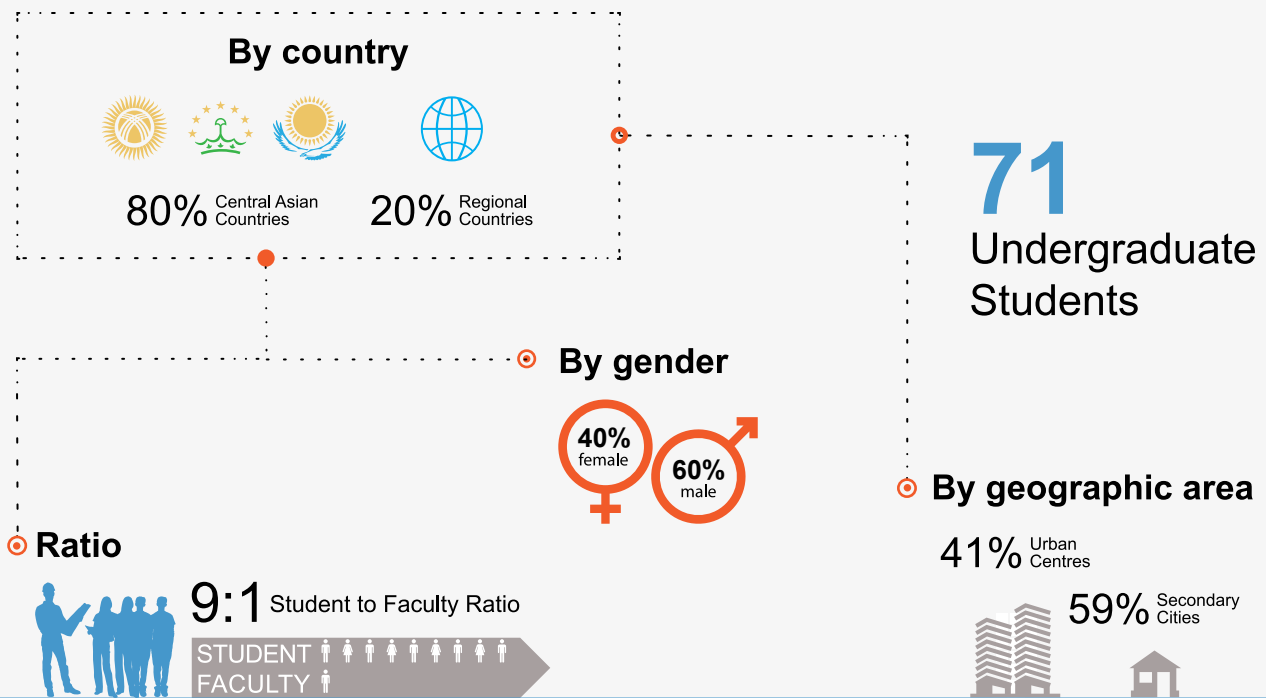
The 2016 recruitment cycle attracted outstanding candidates from around the world. The selected faculty are from Central Asian countries and elsewhere, including Germany, Azerbaijan, the United States, Pakistan, and the Philippines. Nine faculty were hired to teach the Preparatory Programme.

New Partnerships and Tailored Curriculum Development

UCA is developing its liberal arts and core curriculum with world renowned institutions, prioritising the need for contextualised education.

In 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the University of Toronto for the Computer Science discipline. The School is finalising academic partnerships with the University of British Columbia for Earth and Environmental Sciences, the Higher School of Education, Moscow for Economics, and the

INAUGURAL UNDERGRADUATE CLASS OF 2021



University of Victoria for the Cooperative Education programme.

These partnerships provide a sound platform for a sustainable and broader scope of cooperation to engage in faculty and student exchanges, joint research, and other collaborative initiatives.

To meet faculty needs and interests and develop a vibrant academic environment on campus, SAS is organising programmes in five distinct areas:

- Faculty engagement;
- Counselling and mentorship;
- Continuous professional development;
- Workshops/seminars;
- Junior faculty support.

Faculty are engaged in professional development activities throughout the academic year. In July, Seneca College delivered a two-week training to four Preparatory Programme faculty in Canada.

The Winter Upgrading English and maths programme, part of the School's long-term priority, was delivered to Grade 11 students in the region.



School of Professional and Continuing Education

In 2016, the School of Professional and Continuing Education celebrated 10 years of offering programmes designed to improve income-generating opportunities. SPCE is a leading provider of post-secondary, short-cycle education in Central Asia, as well as an academic publisher. SPCE's programmes are offered across twelve learning centres in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and six satellite learning centres in Afghanistan.

Programmes and Key Statistics

The School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE) offers 450 modules in seven learning areas, delivered as programmes for targeted constituents. In 2016, enrolment peaked at 11,975 learners, reflecting an 11.4 percent increase from the previous year. This increase was due primarily to the launch of a second satellite learning centre in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Since its inception in 2006, over 97,000 learners have completed SPCE courses.

About 25 percent of learners were either employed or self-employed, compared to 22 percent in the previous year. More youth (as opposed to adult or employed learners) pursued courses, resulting from the introduction of new programmes specifically targeted to students.

There was also a noticeable increase in adult enrolments; 33 percent of learners were over 25, compared to 25 percent in 2015. Correspondingly, there was a decrease from 35 to 26 percent of students in the 19-25 age group. Since 2006, the

School has published a total of 310 textbooks in multiple languages such as Kyrgyz, Tajik and Dari. In 2016, SPCE produced 38 new textbooks to support course delivery.

Notable Achievements

To celebrate its tenth anniversary as a premier academic institution in Central Asia, SPCE organised eight significant events for a broad range of audiences and stakeholders. Highlights included, a graduation ceremony for its 100 SPCE Naryn graduates, followed by graduations in Khorog and Dushanbe (Tajikistan) for over 400 graduates.

In October 2016, 562 graduates received SPCE certification in Afghanistan's Shughnan, Ishkashim, Darwaz and Faizabad districts. A month later, SPCE also convened an international conference, *Continuing Education for the Sustainable Development of Mountain Communities* in Dushanbe.

Seven SPCE Academic Achievement programme students were admitted to UCA's inaugural undergraduate 2021 class in Naryn, Kyrgyzstan.

UCA's School of Professional and Continuing Education hosted its fourth graduation ceremony on 24 June 2016 in Naryn.





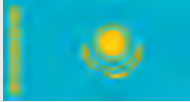
Kyrgyz Republic

- SPCE Naryn launched a new six-level *Mental Maths* programme. Two instructors were trained and received certification in Bishkek. In the last quarter of 2016, more than 100 students aged 7 to 12, enrolled in the programme.
- In September, the *Small Business Management Using Mini-Technologies* certificate programme enrolled six students with four receiving loans of US\$15,000 to expand their businesses. The top ten *Development of Business Plans* students received loans of US\$5,000 to kickstart their enterprises.
- Funded by the United States Agency for International Development, SPCE Bishkek with the international development firm ECODIT, trained 60 energy company employees in *Conversational English* and *English for Business Purposes*.
- A new course addressing transboundary issues, supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development (DFATD) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Canada, trained 140 learners from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan's cross-border areas.
- SPCE Bishkek launched its *International Computer and Driving License* course for the private school *Ilim*, with all of their 12 students passing at their first attempt.
- SPCE Bishkek continued to provide professional development for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime project, and trained 16 prison system employees in *Information Technology* skills.
- SPCE Naryn and Bishkek were awarded permanent licenses to operate its programmes and courses from the Ministry of Education, Kyrgyzstan.



Tajikistan

- As part of the international Global Money Week, SPCE with over 50 institutional partners, delivered programmes to more than 3,000 individuals in the Gorno-Badakhstan Autonomous Oblast.
- In March, SPCE and the Institute of Ismaili Studies launched the *Post-graduate Preparation Programme* in Tajikistan. The partners also offered professional development training to build the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) capacity of English instructors.
- In April, SPCE Dushanbe launched new IELTS and Test of English as a Foreign Language preparation programmes. It also delivered English courses for ECODIT, to 62 staff from the Ministry of Energy (Tajikistan) and the Barqi Tojik Company.
- From September to November, SPCE Dushanbe, the Kyrgyz-Japan Centre for Human Development, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency delivered its *Joint Practical Business Management* course to 25 learners. This is the third time the course was delivered to entrepreneurs in Tajikistan.
- Within the *Small and Micro Business Management and Development Financing Facility for Tajikistan* framework, SPCE Khorog delivered the *Development of Business Planning* programme to 133 students, and *Small and Micro Business Management* certificate programme to 18 students.
- During 2016, despite security and political challenges, SPCE Khorog with Multi-Input Area Development Global Development Alliance (MIAD GDA) project staff made significant progress reaching 1,229 unique learners in Afghanistan.

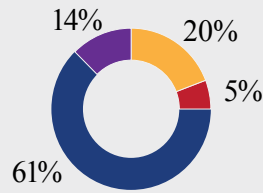


Kazakhstan

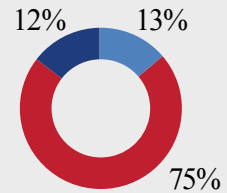
- SPCE Tekeli reached over 550 entrepreneurs across the Almaty Oblast through its series of seminars on business and entrepreneurship.
- SPCE was awarded a tender by the Almaty Airport to deliver a customised new programme, *English for Specific Purposes*, to customs officers.
- The President's Administration introduced a new initiative to implement trilingual education in Kazakhstan. A 2015-2020 road map outlining step-by-step implementation across all education levels in Kazakhstan was approved. SPCE Tekeli was actively involved and organised focus groups for teachers from Tekeli and Taldykorgan. Twenty five teachers from six schools attended SPCE Tekeli's English training.
- In February, SPCE Tekeli organised a two-day workshop for 60 civil servants introducing them to the Rules of Electronic Procurement.
- SPCE Tekeli in association with local companies developed and implemented a Technical and Vocation Education Training programme, *Operator Grinding, Crushing, and Sorting Machines*. The 19 learners from Tekeli were promptly hired upon acquiring their new SPCE credentials.

2016 SPCE Statistics

Admitted Students

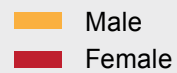
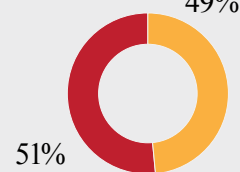


Student Status

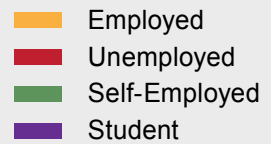
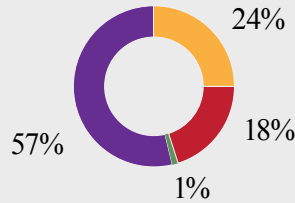


Profile of Admitted Students

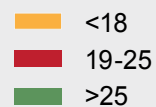
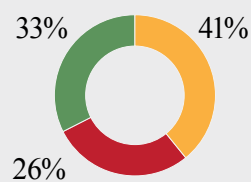
Gender



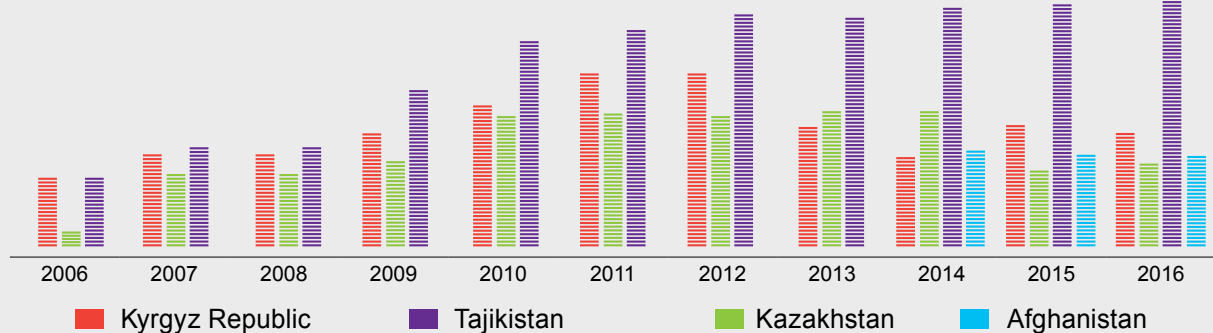
Status



Age



SPCE enrolment from 2006 - 2016



Mountain Societies Research Institute

The Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI) conducts research to improve the well-being of mountain societies in Central Asia. MSRI is committed to advancing the global Sustainable Mountain Development agenda through transformative research, education, and dissemination of findings. MSRI is part of UCA's Graduate School of Development.

Learning Landscapes Initiative

The Learning Landscapes (LL) initiative guides much of MSRI's research. It aims to monitor and analyse long-term ecological and social conditions, trends, and inter-relationships. It supports evidence-based development planning and decision-making as well as identifying innovative pathways to a sustainable future.

This research is conducted at the household, regional, and international levels at UCA's Naryn Campus and is planned for the other two campuses in the future. Research undertaken with faculty and students allows relevant learning to be incorporated into UCA's curriculum.

Local development stakeholders including community organisations and decision makers are equal partners in the LL participatory framework.

Livelihoods and Natural Resource Governance

Part of the LL framework, the *Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation* (ESPA) project spans several villages in Naryn, Kyrgyzstan.

MSRI organised *Participatory Environmental Monitoring* workshops and focus groups. The villagers were introduced to the potential of using recently collected data to inform their natural resource related decisions.

UCA installed four weather stations along the Naryn River watershed and its upstream villages. Sharing this climatic data with villages resulted in their ability to understand and use this information effectively for agriculture and other purposes.

An exploratory study, *Medicinal and Aromatic Plants* (MAP), part of the Aga Khan Development Network's Multi-Input Area Development approach, is aiming to determine if market demands justify long term investment and domestication trials of local medicinal and aromatic plants. Carried out in the transboundary region of Badakhshan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan, first-hand data was assessed from local markets near border towns along the Afghan-Tajik border.

MSRI convened the final Central Asia and Afghanistan Research Fellowship (CAARF) workshop for Central Asian and Afghan scholars to document their diverse research into policy recommendations.





Dr. Dietrich Schmidt-Vogt (standing center), Director of the Mountain Societies Research Institute introducing UCA's Earth and Environmental Sciences curriculum to potential students.

The Aga Khan Foundation is developing recommendations to inform the future promotion and possible involvement of MAPs in trial domestication.

In 2016, MSRI formed a partnership with the International Potato Centre (CIP) to conduct a study to promote sweet potatoes for improved nutrition and food security in Khatlon, Tajikistan. Funding was provided by the United States Agency for Development (USAID).

Social Dynamics in Mountain Societies

During 2016, three projects focused on the social dynamics and disputes surrounding natural resource management in transboundary areas of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Conflicts arising from water and pasture resource use in Batken (Kyrgyzstan) and Soghd (Tajikistan) were examined in a year-long UK Department for International Development (DFID) funded project. It explored the role of local natural resource management organisations and institutional partners. Recommendations to mitigate and resolve disputes on natural resources informed further investigations and implementation of interventions.

In February, a high-level roundtable in Bishkek convened regional stakeholders to understand preliminary research findings and propose key recommendations.

With support from the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF), research on tensions related to the use of natural resources continued

with the *Improving Stability and Better Natural Resources Management in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan* project. It compared resource management models based on climate change and migration patterns.

A project titled *Promoting Social Cohesion and Conflict Mitigation along the Kyrgyz-Tajik Border*, funded by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), allowed MSRI to improve its understanding of social dynamics in enhancing resilience to conflict situations.

This was done by involving community and decision-makers. During field seminars with stakeholders, an action plan to increase social cohesion by improving natural resource management was jointly developed.

Research projects and several surveys resulted in migration emerging as an MSRI focal interest. In February, labour migration caused by Kyrgyzstan's integration into the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) was researched, with attention on the impact of the Russian economic crisis.

In June, MSRI was complemented by additional research on the nexus of environment, rural livelihoods, and labour migration in Naryn, Kyrgyzstan.

Building Social and Ecological Resilience

MSRI partnered with the London School of Economics on the *Pathways to Resilience in Semi-arid Economies* (PRISE) project to spur climate resilience.

Economic threats caused by climate change were identified in collaboration with government, business, civil society stakeholders and regional economic organisations. In late 2016, field research was conducted in Naryn.

Integrated Land Use Systems

Research on the contribution of integrated land use, such as agroforestry systems, to improve livelihoods, food security, and environmental health is carried out by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) office, hosted by MSRI. In the future, it will become a focal point of collaboration with MSRI.

Biodiversity Conservation

Driven by the 2013 Bishkek Declaration on the conservation of snow leopards in their mountain habitats, a comprehensive *Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection* (GSLEP) programme was launched in 2016.

By 2020, the goal is to secure at least 20 landscapes with viable snow leopard populations. In 2016, UCA signed a long-term agreement with the GSLEP Secretariat, Snow Leopard Trust and Snow Leopard Foundation of Kyrgyzstan.

This inaugural collaboration will result in a comprehensive management plan for the Central Tien Shan Snow Leopard Landscape planned for release at the 2nd Snow Leopard Forum in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic in 2017.

MSRI is partnering with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) for the *Hindu Kush – Karakoram – Pamir Landscape Transboundary Conservation* project to assess rangeland conditions in the Tajik Pamirs. In 2016, preliminary fieldwork was carried out to sample soil and vegetation conditions.

Engaging Local Communities

MSRI's mobile digital library *eBilim* contributes to improving access to information, knowledge, and learning opportunities in remote mountain areas.

The *eBilim* project, implemented with financial support from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), houses books, laptops and a digital database of over 5,000 text, audio, and video resources in a refurbished minibus.

Since 2014, *eBilim* has toured 15 villages in Naryn province, reaching more than 12,000 beneficiaries and conducted *information in action* tours with partners.

The project concluded in September 2016 and the experience will contribute to the LL initiative either by hosting a travelling exhibition on environmental issues, or to pilot a participatory mobile environmental laboratory.

Jointly implemented with CAMP Alatoo, the

MSRI's mobile digital library eBilim improves access to information, knowledge and learning opportunities in remote mountain areas.



Kyrgyz Mountains Environmental Education and Citizen Science (KMEECS) project introduces citizen science at the community level.

Working with 10 mountain village schools in Naryn, this project raised awareness of environmental research and how curriculum can inform interactions with the local environments.

MSRI developed a manual for teachers to use in the classroom and provided students with tool boxes for water monitoring experiments. They then developed presentations for exhibition in Bishkek and Naryn.

Building Regional Research Capacities

A part of UCA's Research and Public Policy Initiative (RPPI), the *Central Asia and Afghanistan Research Fellowship (CAARF)* project is supported by the International Research Development Centre (IDRC), Canada.

In May 2016, MSRI conducted the final CAARF workshop on academic writing and publishing, influencing decision making with policy advice, and building a career in academics and science. MSRI published seven policy briefs by CAARF fellows.

The three-year project strengthens research capacity and skills of young researchers from Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

In August, MSRI participated in a Summer School on glacier monitoring in the Naryn basin. Organised by Capacity Building and Twinning for Climate Observing Systems (CATCOS), participants assessed glacial mass balances of Central Asian glaciers.

Supporting the Earth and Environmental Science Undergraduate Curriculum

In July, MSRI researchers organised an innovative one-day interactive field trip to Kyrgyzstan's Issyk-Kul region for UCA Summer Camp participants.

Grade 10 students from the region explored the Grigorievka and Semionovka gorges during five thematic Earth and Environmental Science workshops, on climate change, critical mapping, ecosystem services, environmental monitoring, and watershed management concepts.

MSRI Knowledge Platform

The MSRI Knowledge Hub (www.msri-hub.ucentralasia.org) is an interactive source of information on Central Asian environments and mountain societies. In 2016, the interface and database were modernised to improve accessibility and usability.

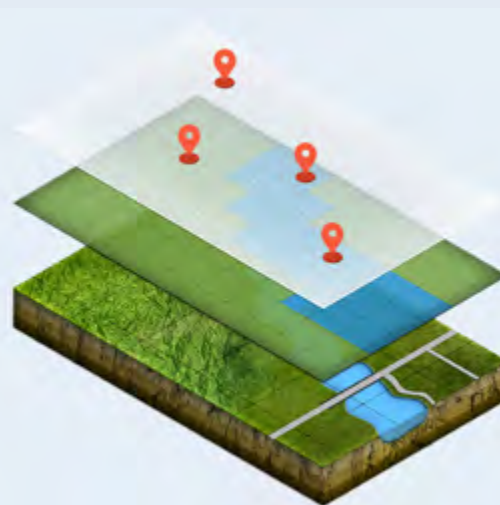
The Knowledge Hub was also integrated into the K-Link network – an innovative regional platform to collaborate and to promote knowledge exchange.

Geographic Information Systems

MSRI's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing lab is a service provider to core projects and supports community based resource management.

By developing participatory GIS models, the lab monitors natural resources through satellite and aerial remote sensing.

Spatial data at various scales and thematic contexts including valuable topographic datasets are collected and analysed to understand spatial and temporal patterns.



A Geographic Information System is designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyse, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data.

Institute of Public Policy and Administration

Established in 2011, the Institute of Public Policy and Administration (IPPA) strengthens public policy making in Central Asia. It provides in-depth analysis of current and emerging policy issues facing the region, and works on improving the analytical capacity of governments and civil society to use evidence-based decision-making through professional development. IPPA is part of UCA's Graduate School of Development.

Highlights

In 2016, the Institute of Public Policy and Administration (IPPA) introduced new initiatives, strengthened existing partnerships, participated in several workshops and conferences, and contributed to sound public policy and administration in the region. IPPA continued publishing its series of peer-reviewed working papers in English and national languages, playing a key role in conducting major national and regional surveys with academic and institutional partners.

Strengthening Mining Policy

IPPA launched its *Mining Policy* initiative to promote empirically-informed public discourse on mining and engage government agencies, media, civil society and the private sector.

This 20-month initiative drew upon UCA resources and its partnerships with state and local government agencies, international experts, universities, donor agencies and non-governmental organisations, including the Aga Khan Development Network.

In 2016, IPPA organised a *Colloquium on Mining Policy* with the Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Economy for senior government officials. After the plenary discussions, IPPA introduced a *Certificate Programme in Mining Policy and Sustainable Development*.

The eight-week executive programme designed for civil servants, experts, journalists, and civil society representatives involved in extractive industries, aims to develop a pool of informed professionals who can improve the quality of public discussion in the mining sector.

IPPA is currently seeking external funding to produce a volume on Mining and Sustainable Development, which will capture insights from

the colloquium and certificate programme to serve as a reference for government, civil society, and private sector initiatives.

Informing Public Policy

Building on its professional experience, original research, and network of institutional partnerships, IPPA continued delivering its flagship *Certificate Programme in Policy Analysis* (CPPA) to offer lasting contributions to the professional capacities of regionally-based individuals, governments, and organisations in Central Asia.

In 2016, 31 individuals predominantly civil servants, from Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan successfully completed the programme. CPPA includes four modules; *Policy Process in Government*, *Economics for Policy Analysis*, *Methods of Policy Analysis*, *Policy Monitoring and Evaluation* and a colloquium. Students will earn credit towards UCA's future Master of Science in Economic Development.

Advocating Food Security and Agriculture

In 2016, IPPA conducted a study of value chains and market requirements for sheep meat and bean products from the Kyrgyz Republic. The study analysed the current state of production, identified challenges and obstacles to increasing production and export, and provided targeted recommendations.

A study on agricultural restructuring and water use patterns in Kyrgyzstan within a five-country study *Agricultural Restructuring, Water Scarcity and the Adaptation to Climate Change in Central Asia* (AGRIWANET) was also conducted.

A thorough analysis of data, consolidation and analysis of information on agricultural adaptation, national policies and strategies on



Dr. Roman Mogilevskii (left), Associate Director of the Institute of Public Policy and Administration, addressing delegates at the 2nd Life in Kyrgyzstan conference.

agriculture development and climate change delivered unique insights. It resulted in a report on the outcomes of agricultural reforms in Kyrgyzstan, spanning 25 years.

IPPA and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) continued developing new online platform and mapping tools – *Kyrgyzstan Spatial* (www.kyrgyzstanspatial.org) and *Tajikistan Spatial* (www.tajikistanspatial.org). These provide a tested methodology to facilitate data access and analytics to help policymakers and practitioners assess, anticipate, and respond to agriculture and food security needs in their countries.

IPPA also applied IFPRI’s climate change and IMPACT modelling to Central Asian countries, strengthening national capacities in economy-wide modelling and applied policy research.

In addition, IPPA led a pilot project for partnership in research and education in Central Asia. This project is part of a consortium of seven mutually-independent institutions based in six countries and supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Evaluating Impact

IPPA’s growing visibility has raised the demand for its services by governments, donor countries and international organisations. In 2016, IPPA

engaged in three key impact evaluation projects:

- IPPA and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the United Nations University, and the Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology, completed an impact evaluation of the *International Initiative for Impact Evaluation* peacebuilding project.
- IPPA was commissioned to measure intervention impact of the *Social Cohesion through Community-Based Development* project by administering baseline and end-line surveys and data collection. This project, funded by the World Bank and the Aga Khan Foundation, aims to strengthen social cohesion through community-driven development projects in Kyrgyzstan.
- IPPA led an impact evaluation of a joint project funded by the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, acting through the Department for International Development (DFID) and implemented by local regional partners. The project aims to reduce conflicts related to the use and management of natural resources in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as well as cross-border locations.

Social Cohesion and Conflict Mitigation

IPPA received a United States Institute of Peace (USIP) grant to examine conflict potential in the cross-border areas of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Researchers attempted to understand conflict in the Ferghana Valley, identify factors that aggravate and alleviate tensions along the Kyrgyz-Tajik border and understand how conflict is related to current models of use and governance of natural resources in Kyrgyz-Tajik cross-border communities.



Life in Kyrgyzstan: Fifth Wave

The *Life in Kyrgyzstan* (LiK) study is a research-based, open access, multi-topic longitudinal survey of households and individuals in Kyrgyzstan. The survey was first conducted in the fall of 2010 and was repeated four times in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2016.

IPPA joined an international consortium of research institutions together with the Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops (IGZ), IFPRI, and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to lead the implementation of the 2016 LiK study.

IPPA Working Paper Series

- **Social Cohesion through Community-based Development Project in the Kyrgyz Republic: Baseline Survey Report**
Damir Esenaliev, Jamilya Karabaeva, Kanat Tilekeyev, Anastasia Aladysheva, Bakhrom Mirkasimov, Nazgul Abdrazakova, Aida Bolotbekova, Saule Chalbasova, Francesca Pavan, Roman Mogilevskii and Tilman Brück
Working Paper #34 (English, March 2016, 51 p.)
- **Forced Marriage and Birth Outcomes**
Charles M. Becker, Bakhrom Mirkasimov, Susan Steiner
Working Paper #35 (English, Russian, April 2016, 45 p.)
- **Sheep Meat Production Value Chains in the Kyrgyz Republic and Export Capacity to the EAEU Member States**
Kanat Tilekeyev, Roman Mogilevskii, Aida Bolotbekova, Shoola Dzhumaeva
Working Paper #36 (English, Russian, July 2016, 64 p.)
- **Measuring Social Cohesion in the Kyrgyz Republic: The Social Cohesion Index**
Mandi M. Larsen, Klaus Boehnke
Working Paper #37 (English, August 2016, 68 p.)

IPPA Policy Briefs

- **Central Asia and the Silk Road Economic Belt**
Kemel Toktomushev
Policy Brief No. 4, August 2016, 6 p.
- **Improving Coordination Among Government Ministries in Afghanistan**
Moein Daqiq
Policy Brief No. 3, August 2016, 6 p.
- **Promoting the Effective Use of Aid in Afghanistan**
Freshta Wardak
Policy Brief No. 2, August 2016, 6 p.
- **Revenue Collection and Management: A Challenge to the Afghan Government**
Sayed Daud Fazli
Policy Brief No. 1, August 2016, 6 p.

Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit

The Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit advances UCA's mission to help the different peoples of the region preserve and draw upon their rich cultural traditions and heritage as assets for the future.

Highlights

In September 2016, the Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit (CHHU) arranged for two female lamenters to participate in the world premiere of *An Occupation of Loss* at the Park Avenue Armoury in New York, USA.

The Unit collaborated with Taryn Simon, a multi-disciplinary American artist, whose art installation explored rituals of grief and mourning from 30 countries, including Kyrgyzstan, through sculpture, music and architecture.

CHHU and AKDN's Global Centre for Pluralism (GCP) mentored Ideat Temirbek uulu to develop *History and Memory in Kyrgyzstan. Towards an Inclusive Society*. Temirbek, who lectures at the Kyrgyz State Pedagogical University named after Ishenaly Arabaev, wrote on *Issues of Integration of Ethnic Kyrgyz in Kyrgyzstan: The Case of the Ethnic Kyrgyz from Tajikistan*.

The Unit also organised a familiarisation visit for China's Central Conservatory of Music (CCOM) to UCA's Founding States. The delegation visited monumental cultural heritage sites, music schools and national conservatories in Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic), Dushanbe (Tajikistan) and Almaty (Kazakhstan).

They met senior University leadership to explore promoting cultural heritage and music education in the region. CCOM invited Dr. Elmira Köchümkulova, Head of CHHU and Chorshanbe Goibnazarov, Junior Research Fellow, and the Aga Khan Music Initiative (AKMI) to the inaugural *Conference of the Music Education Union Cross the Silk Road* in 2017.

Research Collaboration

CHHU mentored and supported music student Wajahat Shah from the National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan. His presentations on Northern Pakistan's musical traditions were well received in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

This robust collaboration culminated in the production of an ethnographic film based on Shah's fieldwork in Badakhshan and Dushanbe in Tajikistan.

In addition, Goibnazarov submitted his PhD dissertation *Qasida-khoni as an Expression of Identities: Tradition, Continuity and Changes* to Humboldt University zu Berlin in Germany. From July – August 2016, he was awarded a research fellowship by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research to work in Berlin.

Dr. Elmira Köchümkulova (standing right), Head of the Cultural Heritage Unit, introducing students to traditional Kyrgyz songs from the Music of Central Asia textbook.



Aga Khan Humanities Project

The Aga Khan Humanities Project was founded in 1997 by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and joined UCA in 2007. It fosters critical thinking and academic writing skills through an integrated humanities curriculum. AKHP develops and delivers resources, training and courses within a multi-disciplinary framework.

In 2016, 83 educational institutions from the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan implemented the Aga Khan Humanities Project's (AKHP) curriculum and pedagogy. More than 16,700 students were taught humanities by 820 instructors.

AKHP is headquartered in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, with partnerships and programmes in all three Founding States of UCA. Through this growing network of partner universities in the region, AKHP is transforming the study of humanities in Central Asia.

2016 Accomplishments

In 2016, AKHP delivered the Cross Debate Format training and organised debate tournaments for 220 students. It also conducted professional development for 90 teachers in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.

The debating format was introduced to 500 students from the Almaty Management University, Kazakhstan, who successfully

completed an official examination conducted by Dr. N Tajjbaeva.

AKHP's inaugural Cross Debate regional tournament was organised in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Fifty debaters from the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan participated.

A similar tournament was initiated in Tajikistan by the New Generation Debate Club. It was organised with funding from Huawei and Megafon companies in Tajikistan, making it the first time, this format received external financing.

For the first time, two AKHP student debaters participated in the Netherlands World University Debater Championship.

AKHP Public Lecture Series

Established in 2012, the AKHP Public Lecture Series presents inter-disciplinary discourse between the humanities and natural sciences disciplines. In 2016, AKHP delivered six public lectures reaching more than 300 individuals.

The AKHP Public Lecture Series presents inter-disciplinary discourse in the humanities and the natural sciences.



Impact on Mountain Communities

UCA's operations and construction activities generated significant benefits for local communities.

The University's mandate is to promote the socio-economic development of Central Asia's mountain societies. Beyond the University's educational and research programmes and their direct benefit to students, impact on local communities is achieved by generating employment, developing infrastructure, engaging in operational and capital spending in the region and, engaging communities surrounding the campus sites.

Building Campuses in Naryn and Khorog

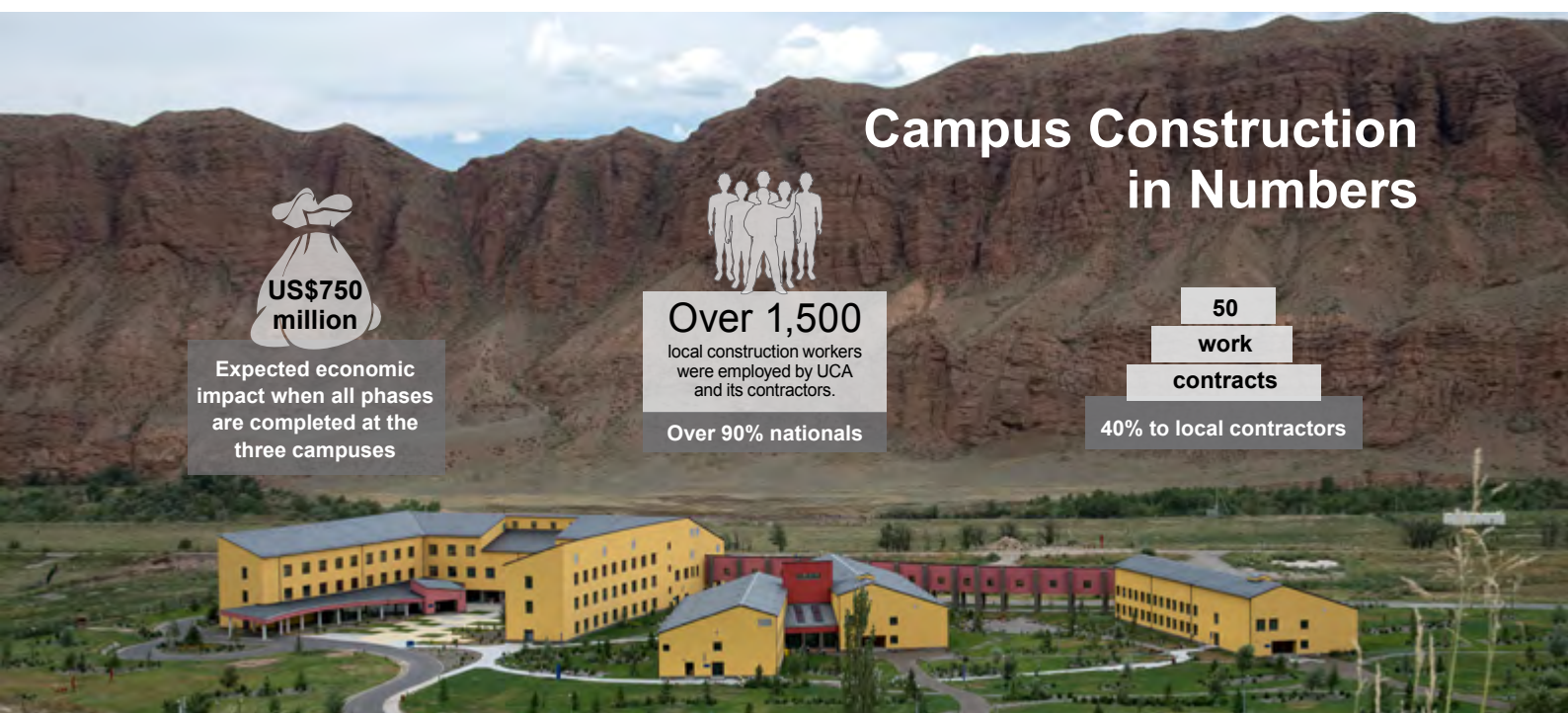
Throughout the construction period from 2013 – 2016, a total of 50 main works packages for trades and advance works amounting to US\$40.6 million were tendered to over 200 contractors. The companies were mainly from Central Asia, Europe, Turkey, Russia and China, and were to hire a minimum 50 percent manpower from Central Asia. However, in practice up to 90 percent national staff were employed.

In Naryn, over 700 local construction workers were employed by UCA and its contractors. A total of US\$27m (45% of total construction contracts awarded, benefitting some 20 sub-contractors). The newly skilled construction manpower from the Kyrgyz Republic and the wider Central Asian region are now either part of the Operations team on campus or have

found other job placements with their recently acquired skills.

Approximately US\$13m (22% of total construction spend) of local materials were locally procured benefitting 25 contractors and suppliers. A local business in Naryn, *Bozgunchieva Asel*, provided over 500 meals to workers daily at facilities established by UCA.

In Khorog, over 800 local construction workers were employed to build the UCA campus. Construction is underway, and the contracts awarded are expected to be in the region of US\$31m (44% of total spend) benefitting 25 contractors. Local materials costing US\$15m (21% of total spend) were procured from 27 contractors and suppliers. A similar welfare facility was built in Khorog with local caterer *Miren*, serving over 600 meals daily.



University Operations

In 2016, University Operations led the efforts to commission UCA's first campus in Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic. The commissioning team was responsible for establishing systems and protocols, information technology services, staff recruitment, security, health and safety, cafeteria and housekeeping services.

The Division successfully placed 86 positions from a pool of 1,043 applicants to establish the inaugural Naryn Campus operations team. Dedicated efforts were made to ensure socio-economic benefit to the campus regions by hiring national contractors and suppliers.

For example, the tender to install IT equipment

was awarded to Kyrgyz contractor, *Greenlight*, one of many local companies engaged by UCA to operationalise the Naryn campus. Given their exemplary performance, they are delivering similar installations for the Khorog Campus. A local entrepreneur from Naryn, Ulukbek Bukaradinov, is supplying and managing the Naryn Campus Store and vending machines.

Next year, the Division will focus on operationalising the Khorog campus applying lessons learnt from the Naryn experience, and enhancing established protocols and processes. The team is also working on a group purchasing strategy with fellow AKDN agencies in Central Asia to leverage economies of scale and improve procurement processes.

Fifth Annual Independence Day Football Tournament



Naryn citizens participate in UCA's football tournament.

The University's annual Independence Day football tournament has become a Naryn tradition. On 30 and 31 August, qualifying matches were played at the Naryn campus, with the final hosted on Kyrgyz Independence Day. This is the fifth time UCA has hosted the games.

The first competition was held in 2012 to commemorate the opening of UCA's football and tennis facilities. Over the years, the number of community teams from the Naryn neighbourhood has doubled from four to eight. Previous tournaments have been officiated by former Prime Minister of Kyrgyz Republic Jantoro Satybaldiyev as well as the Naryn Governor and the Mayor.

The football pitch conforms with world football governing body Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) standards, and the tennis courts are also of international standards with artificial surface. These facilities, built by residents of Naryn City and Tosh-Bulak village, serve community, as well as UCA students' needs.



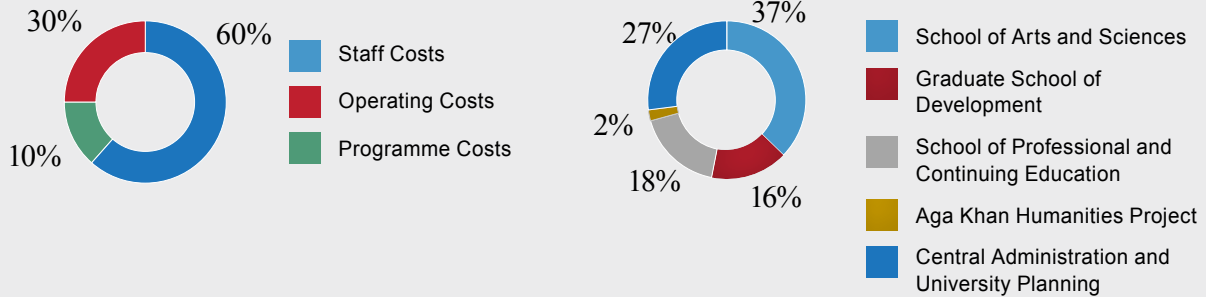
"In just five years, the annual Independence Day tournament has become an important community event, and UCA is delighted to host the teams and their supporters. Since our sports facilities opened in 2012, they have been open to the public."

*- Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha,
Chairman,
UCA Board of Trustees*

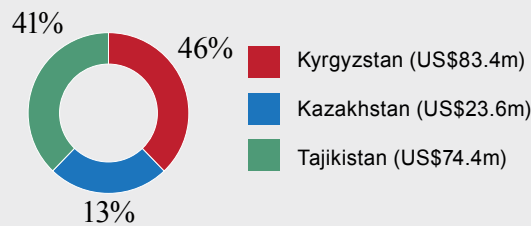
UCA Financial Overview: 2016

Total investment in UCA since inception: US\$268m,
international donors (US\$48.1m), operating revenues (US\$7m)

Operating Expenses: 2016 (US\$12.9m)



Construction and Facilities Development:
Cumulative Investment since inception (2004-2016) US\$181.4m

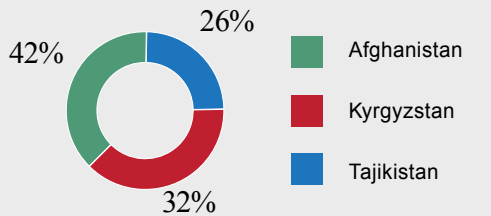


Endowment Value (31 December 2016) US\$35.9m

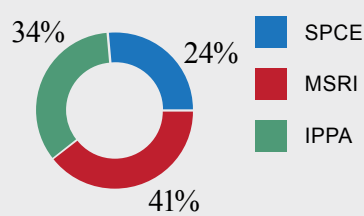
Distribution of Grants Received in 2016

Total grants received US\$1.16m

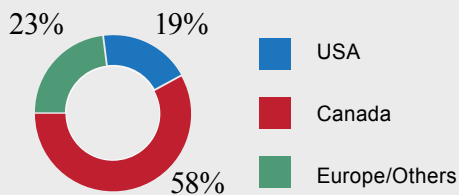
Geographic Distribution:



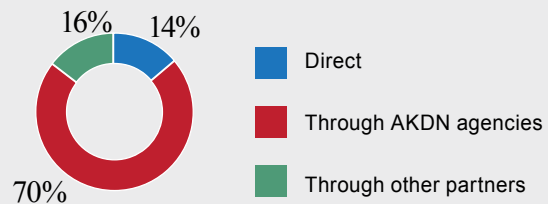
Programme Unit:



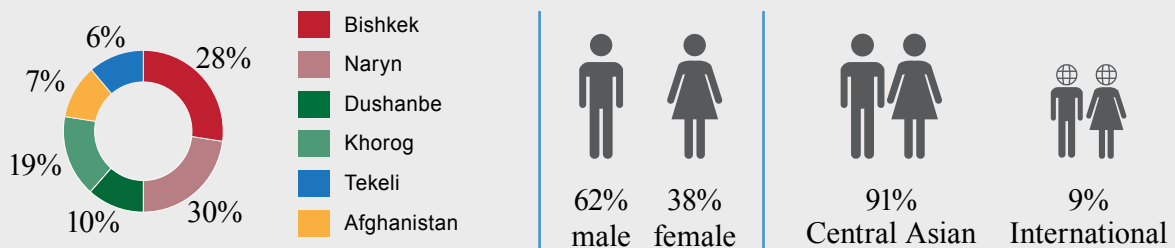
Donor Origin:



Source:



Human Resource Profile: 2016



Total Number of Staff: 490



Central Asian Art on Campus

Ulan Djaparov, a well-known Kyrgyz art consultant was commissioned to develop an art strategy optimising the layout, design and architecture of UCA campuses. With a team of over 10 artists, he was tasked to incorporate the cultural heritage of the three Founding States (nomadic culture of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan and settled culture of Tajikistan).

Consultants were also engaged to recommend art installations for the Seitaaly Jakypov Park in Naryn. The artists proposed a diverse range and styles of installations, budget, as well as an implementation strategy.





Above: Painting by artist Farrukh Negmat-zade located at the Naryn Campus Student Lounge.



Left: Paintings by artist Bakhrom Ismatov in the Lounge Area of the Faculty Offices at the Naryn Campus.

Archaeological Discoveries at Naryn Campus

The University's mission to help the people 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 Naryn campus site.

In 2012, the discovery of a Turkic kurgan or burial site, complete with skeletons of a human and horse, created excitement on UCA's Naryn campus. The territory has long been of interest to archaeologists. In 1953, archaeologist Ahmad Kibirov discovered a large cemetery on the *Aigyr-zhal* site, where many burial mounds had been previously destroyed.

UCA was aware of these sites based on studies by archaeologist Dr. Kubat Tabaldyev of Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University. The artefacts were carefully relocated under the supervision of community leaders. During a seismic study, older remains and petroglyphic drawings were found. UCA then approached Tabaldyev to lead an archaeological survey of the area.

That same year, Tabaldyev worked with UCA's School of Professional and Continuing Education to publish his seminal work, *Ancient Monuments of the Tien-Shan*, as part of the UCA Cultural Heritage Book Series.

His team discovered internment sites and artefacts spanning the Stone, Bronze, early Iron and Middle Ages, indicating continuous settlement of the area. In 2014, Russian archaeologist Yuriy Sergeevich Khudyakov joined Tabaldyev, finding a 7th century Turkic kurgan (burial site) and artefacts.



A mound (covered with stones) where noble Saka women were buried.

From 2013-2016, a team of Japanese archaeologists from the Kokushikan University, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, and Waseda University, Tokyo assisted local archaeologists. These efforts were part of a four-year project, the *Formation of Nomadic Societies in Ancient Eurasia: A Comparative Study*.

The project to study the *Aigyrzhal 2* and *3* sites were led by Katsuhiko Ohnuma, Director of Kokushikan University in Tokyo. It was supported by the Japan Future Enterprise (JFE) 21st Century Foundation, Lithuanian University's Institute of Archeology and Ethnography, the Russian Academy of Science's Institute of Anthropology and Ethnology, the Czech Republic Academy of Sciences, and Naryn State University students.

Over the past four years, the Japanese team determined the age of more than 30 objects by radiocarbon dating, recorded topographic maps, conducted fieldwork with national archaeologists, engaged local students in archaeology and excavation, published joint papers, and presented their

findings at international conferences.

This discovery revealed the complex structure of the sites. In addition to discovering burial mounds from the Bronze Age, the Saka and Turkic periods, they also found traces of a large Mesolithic settlement (12 BC). The *Aigyrzhal 2* site is approximately two hectares.

This Mesolithic settlement is the earliest and largest find in Central Asia. The presence of symbolic artefacts and Lithic inventory place the site to the Epi-Paleolithic culture. This confirms that the Mesolithic culture in the Naryn valley is from a Paleolithic local culture or cultures.

The *Aigyrzhal 3* site dates itself to 8 BC, representing the Bronze Age and a Mesolithic or Neolithic settlement. The borders of the sites are yet undefined as the cemetery surface structures were leveled during the Soviet times. Findings on both sites shed light on the technological and cultural evolution of Bronze Age communities in the region.

During the 2016 excavations, a semi-circle mud wall from the Mesolithic era was discovered, marking the presence of Mesolithic or later, Bronze Age architecture. Anthropologists Egor Kitov and A Khokhlov from the Russian Academy of Science studied this collection. As a result, three skeletons were found to be archaic even comparatively to the Bronze Age burial sites. Geologist Lenka Lisa from the Czech Republic Academy of Sciences specified the geoarchaeological formation of these sites.

Since this research began in 2012, UCA has facilitated and fully supported the efforts of Kyrgyz archaeologists and the Japanese team.



*Clay vessels from the Saka period found whilst excavating *Aigyrzhal 2* burial mounds. It was a ritual to place vessels with food next to the deceased.*



Over 250 visitors toured the University's facilities, explored programmes and attended workshops during UCA's inaugural Open House in Naryn. Dr. Diana Pauna, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences welcoming guests.

Improving Access

The University strengthened infrastructure and connections to the broader region by constructing a three-kilometre Naryn-Baetovo diversion road complete with pedestrian footpath, street lighting and trees, and handed it over to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. Neighbouring Tosh-Bulak village was provided with 24-hour water supply and a paved access road.

In December 2013, UCA's Construction and Facilities Division built a sledding hill and ski lift at the Naryn campus site for use by neighbouring communities. The hill was excavated and watered to ensure smooth sledding with funding from UCA and donations of time and labour from campus construction contractors. Lighting for night-time sledding was connected and sleds were provided free of charge.

The hill is just one way that UCA is engaging the youth and children of Naryn. Students from

UCA's School of Professional and Continuing Education have toured the campus site and used the sports facilities. They have also participated in public lectures by UCA executive designer AECOM on structural, geotechnical engineering and campus landscape design.

To extend quality healthcare services for the Khorog community, an Aga Khan Health Service Medical Centre is under development in preparation of UCA's campus opening in 2017.

UCA has rehabilitated a walkway for the local Aga Khan Lycee and began construction on early childhood education centres in town, including two kindergartens and a training centre for early childhood educators.

The University has also paved access roads to Dasht village from the main town, a gravel road to Upper Dasht village, an access road from the community of Khitjd, and installed streetlights.

As part of AKDN's broader commitment to Naryn, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture rehabilitated the Seitaaly Jakypov Park.







Undergraduate students will attend their first classes at the Khorog Campus in 2017. Photo taken December 2016

Institutional Partners

The following institutional partners have contributed to UCA's programmes since 2013, with many more contributing practically and intellectually to the University's work. The contributions of all of these partners are gratefully acknowledged.

- Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Afghanistan Research Evaluation Unit
- Aga Khan Development Network
- Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Almaty Oblast Administration, Kazakhstan
- American University of Central Asia
- Asian Development Bank Institute
- Badakhshan University, Afghanistan
- British Council
- Carleton University
- Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management CALCILM
- Certified International Professional Accountant Examination Network (CIPA-EN)
- Chevron Corporation
- Coca-Cola Foundation
- Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)
- Damu Entrepreneurship Development Fund JSC, Kazakhstan
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD)
- Embassies of France in Tajikistan
- Embassy of the United States in Tajikistan
- European Commission (TEMPUS)
- European Computer Driving Licence Foundation
- Flora and Fauna International
- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
- Fulbright Scholar Program
- George Washington University
- Global Affairs Canada
- Global Environment Facility, Sustainable Land Management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains (GEF PALM)
- Government of the Kingdom of Norway
- Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
- GRID-Arendal
- Helvetas
- Imperial College of London
- Indian Council on Cultural Relations
- Institute of Public Administration under the President of Republic of Tajikistan
- International Academy of Business
- International Computer Driving License Asia
- International Food Policy Research Institute
- International Mountain Society
- Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank
- Kyrgyz National Agrarian University
- Kyrgyz Republic Japan Centre for Human Development
- Kyrgyz State University of Construction, Transport and Architecture
- London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI)
- Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts
- Michigan State University
- Microsoft Corporation
- Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Ministry of Finance (Afghanistan)
- Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- Ministry of Youth, Labour and Employment of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Mountain Partnership
- Naryn Oblast Administration
- National Academy of Public Administration under the President of Ukraine
- National Bank of Kyrgyz Republic
- National Centre for Competency in Research
- National Institute for Strategic Studies (Kyrgyzstan)
- National Statistics Committee (Kyrgyzstan)
- National University of Singapore
- Nazarbayev University
- North-South (NCCR-NS)
- Nur Foundation
- Office of Government
- Open Society Institute, Budapest
- Osh State University
- Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)
- Prince Sadruddin, Aga Khan Fund for Environment
- State Agency of Self Government and Interethnic Relationship, Kyrgyz Republic
- State Personnel Service, Kyrgyz Republic
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Swiss National Science Foundation
- Synergos Institute
- Tajik Agrarian University
- The Christensen Fund
- The World Bank
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- United Nations University, Bonn
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- United States Agency for International Development/Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI)
- United States Department of Agriculture
- United States Department of State
- United States Peace Corps
- University of Alberta
- University of Adelaide
- University of Berne, Centre for Development and Environment
- University of British Columbia
- University of Cambridge
- University of Exeter
- University of Montana
- University of Ottawa
- University of Salzburg
- University of Toronto
- Vanderbilt University
- World Economic Forum
- World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT)
- Zoï Environment Network

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