



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA



ANNUAL REPORT | 2018

TAJIKISTAN | KYRGYZSTAN | KAZAKHSTAN



- Academic Building
Бинаи таълимий
Учбадиди акадeмик
- Laboratory Building
Бинаи таълимий
Лаборатория
- Student Life Building
Бинаи таълимий
Бинаи ҳаёт ва тинчлик
- Sports Centre
Маркази варзиш
Спортинг маркази

About UCA

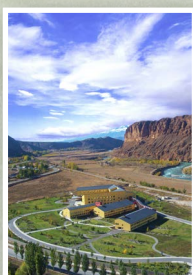
The University of Central Asia (UCA) was founded in 2000 as a private, not for profit, secular university through an International Treaty signed by the Presidents of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, and His Highness the Aga Khan; ratified by their respective parliaments, and registered with the United Nations. The Presidents are the Patrons of the University, and His Highness is the Chancellor. UCA's mission is to promote the social and economic development of Central Asia, particularly its mountain communities, by offering an internationally recognised standard of higher education, and enabling the peoples of the region to preserve their rich cultural heritage as assets for the future. UCA brings with it the broader commitment and partnership of the Aga Khan Development Network.

Table of Contents

Message from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.....	2
Message from the Rector	3
UCA Khorog Campus Inaugurated by the President of Tajikistan.....	4
VIP Visits to UCA	6
2018 Highlights	8
School of Arts and Sciences	10
School of Professional and Continuing Education.....	14
Mountain Societies Research Institute	18
Institute of Public Policy and Administration	20
Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit.....	23
Aga Khan Humanities Project.....	24
Financial Overview: 2018	25
Institutional Partners.....	28

Stay updated

You can find web version of this report and additional information about UCA, including the latest news updates, on our website: www.ucentralasia.org



On the Cover:

UCA's campus nestled in the mountainous terrain and spectacular panorama of Naryn, Kyrgyzstan.

Message from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees

The formal inauguration of UCA's second residential campus in Khorog by the President of Tajikistan was the highlight of the University's accomplishments in 2018. UCA's first campus in Naryn, Kyrgyzstan was inaugurated in 2016, and the third campus in Tekeli, Kazakhstan is planned for 2022. However, the more challenging task of building UCA as an international institution of higher learning is only just beginning. It is the quality of education and research, as well the values espoused by the University community including the graduates, that will determine the success of UCA.

This year the Board of Trustees held three meetings at which they had the benefit of interaction with the Chancellor, His Highness the Aga Khan, who shared his vision of the UCA as a high quality research university which should address the challenges of education and development of mountain societies. They also held five meetings of their four Committees. In April, the Trustees visited UCA's campus in Naryn, the first time since their appointment in November 2017, and were delighted with their engagement with the students and the faculty, and to see the state of the art facilities on campus.

This year the University admitted its third cohort of 79 undergraduate students from a pool of 2,082 applicants; 77% of whom are from rural areas and secondary towns.

Like all universities, UCA focuses on teaching, research, and service. However, the vision of the Chancellor, and the Founders, the Presidents of the Founding States of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan, is for UCA to become a research university. The Chancellor has stressed on many occasions that it is the quality of research that distinguishes a university from conventional institutions of higher education. The Trustees therefore look forward to working with management to develop a road map towards the achievement of these objectives. Meantime, it is heartening that UCA's current research efforts are becoming an important resource for information on the challenges and development potential of mountain societies in Central Asia. The University's sponsorship of several national and international conferences, seminars, and workshops is gaining increasing popularity among academics and development professionals in Central Asia and beyond, and its publications and research are accessible to all from its website (www.ucentralasia.org).

After four and a half years of leading UCA's academic and management responsibilities as Executive Chairman, I am very pleased to hand over the operational leadership to the Rector, Prof. Dr. S. Sohail H. Naqvi, who assumed his post in September. He brings to UCA remarkable experience in academic reforms and university leadership in the context of a developing country.

This annual report highlights the University's achievements in 2018 of its three Schools: the undergraduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School of Development, and the School of Professional and Continuing Education, as well as the Aga Khan Humanities Project. I hope you will find this publication a useful and comprehensive snapshot of the University's major initiatives and accomplishments.

On behalf of our Board, faculty, staff and students, I take this opportunity to convey our gratitude to UCA's Founding States, our partners in the Aga Khan Development Network, as well as all our friends, well-wishers and partners for their continued support. The Board's special appreciation goes to the faculty and staff for their dedicated commitment to helping to lay strong foundations for this young institution.

Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Message from the Rector

Since taking over leadership of the University of Central Asia (UCA) in September, the primary focus of my work has been on positioning the University for perpetual excellence and impact in research, pedagogy, and education. Key to this is a concerted focus on an integrated vision whereby the three Schools of UCA, School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE), School of Arts and Sciences, and Graduate School of Development work together to impact the quality of life of the mountain communities, addressing different parts of the education spectrum.

The inauguration in September of the Khorog campus of UCA by the President of Tajikistan indicates steady progress of implementation of UCA's vision as a regional university and long-term commitment to the peoples of Central Asia. While UCA achieved many other significant milestones in 2018, which are presented within the pages of this report, I would like to draw attention to a few key accomplishments which highlight the regional impact of our academic programmes and offerings.

The Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI) of UCA co-hosted, in Bishkek, the World Mountain Forum 2018, together with the Kyrgyz Government, which brought together over 300 people from nearly 40 countries. Eleven UCA undergraduate students majoring in Earth & Environmental Sciences at the Khorog campus, attended this event, participated in the Youth Forum and served as attendants assisting the Forum organisers.

Lauded by the Government of Afghanistan, UCA's Institute of Public Policy and Administration in the Graduate School of Development delivered three classroom sessions of the Executive Masters in Economic Policy for officials of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) of Afghanistan of which 40% are women. Participants of this programme are expected to graduate in February 2019.

Aga Khan Foundation-USAID funded Thrive Global Development Alliance project was launched in October with a grant of nearly \$1million for SPCE to train students from Khatlon and the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast regions in social and business entrepreneurship that will lead to the creation of new businesses and enhanced employment of youth. Launched in 2006 and operating in 10 locations, SPCE plays a foundational role in the fulfillment of UCA's objective to be a pre-eminent regional, research and development university. SPCE delivers short-cycle programmes that improve the livelihoods and educational mobility of a wide range of learners in the region.

From TEDx talks to sport championships, UCA students of the School of Arts and Sciences are already making their mark in their respective campus towns. Community health fairs, school tournaments for mathematics, archaeological digs on campus are just some of the ways in which students are enriching the communities they reside in.

No single institution has all the answers; but beyond the ones we do provide, UCA is modeling how to ask the right questions and collaborate in pursuit of the best possible answers. These are the hallmarks of a thriving institution, and they give me great hope that the University of Central Asia is moving in the right direction.

I welcome you to look back on the many stellar academic and mission-related achievements made by our students, faculty, and staff in 2018.



Prof. Dr. S. Sohail H. Naqvi
Rector
University of Central Asia



President of Tajikistan Inaugurates Khorog Campus



President of Tajikistan Inaugurates Khorog Campus



Top left clockwise (4 photos): Student activities on campus.

Top right: President Emomali Rahmon unveiling the plaque inaugurating the Khorog campus.

Bottom left: President Emomali Rahmon speaking with students in the Library of the Khorog campus.

Bottom right: The Faculty in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences explain a student project to President Emomali Rahmon.

VIP Visits to UCA



UCA Trustees visit the Naryn campus. L to R: Princess Zahra Aga Khan, Prof. Dr. S. Sohail H. Naqvi, Mr. Naguib Kheraj, Mrs. Elvira Sarieva, Dr. Shenggen Fan (pointing), Dr. Hans Hurni, Dr. Sharofat Mamadambarova, Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha.



While on a visit to UCA, Prince Aly Muhammad Aga Khan visited a local chicken farm owned by Mr. Kalyikul Ysraliev, a graduate of the School of Professional and Continuing Education's Entrepreneurship Programme in Naryn.

VIP Visits to UCA



Dr. Mohammad Humayon Qayoumi, Chief Adviser to the President of Afghanistan, (currently Minister of Finance) on a tour of UCA's Khorog Campus in April 2018. He was accompanied by his wife and other senior government officials.



Ms. Naheed Sarabi (right), Deputy Minister of Finance of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Dr. Bohdan Krawchenko, Dean of UCA's Graduate School of Development, sign a Memorandum of Understanding for UCA to deliver an Executive Masters in Economic Policy for Afghan civil servants.

2018 Highlights



Over 50 students participated in UCA's first Model United Nations Conference at the Naryn campus. The conference provided a platform for students to learn about the complexities of international relations through a United Nations simulation.



Anders Rydin, Chairman of the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga (SSE Riga) Foundation and Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha (seated right), signed a memorandum of understanding in Riga, Latvia. Areas of cooperation include development of curriculum for UCA's undergraduate programme in Economics, faculty and student exchanges, as well as research cooperation.

2018 Highlights



UCA's Institute of Public Policy and Administration and the United Nations in Kyrgyzstan launched the first in a series of Development Dialogues to be organised over the course of one year. The objective was to initiate consultation among government, development partners, civil society, private sector, and academia on critical sustainable development subjects. The first dialogue was on Food Security and Nutrition. From L to R: Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, Chairman, UCA Board of Trustees, Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo, UNDP Resident Representative to Kyrgyzstan, and Mr. Erkin Checheibaev, Deputy Minister of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic.



UCA and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic co-organised the fourth World Mountain Forum in Bishkek, with support from the Government of Switzerland and the Aga Khan Foundation United Kingdom. It brought together 300 participants from the global community across complementary sectors and different types of agencies including community members, civil society, academic, and government institutions, to share experiences and best practices, and develop integrated solutions to existing challenges of sustainable development in the mountain regions.

School of Arts and Sciences

UCA's School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) provides high quality undergraduate education in the liberal arts and sciences in a fully residential setting. Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees are offered in Computer Science, and Communications and Media, at the Naryn campus; and Economics, and Earth and Environmental Sciences, at the Khorog campus. The Tekeli campus is expected to be operational by 2022, and will offer Engineering Sciences and Business Management.

Undergraduate Programme

In 2018, SAS reached several historic milestones, including the formal inauguration of the Khorog campus in Tajikistan on September 14th 2018 by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon. It is the second campus of the University to become operational since its Naryn campus was inaugurated in Kyrgyzstan in 2016.

SAS admitted its third cohort of undergraduate students following an 85% increase in applications from the 2017-2018 admissions cycle. During the recruitment campaign, UCA conducted 129 high school visits, participated in 3 educational fairs across the three Founding States, and promoted UCA programmes through Cross-Debate Format tournaments, and Parents Day on each campus.

In September 2018, 79 students enrolled in the undergraduate programme to form the Class of 2023. Three students who met the required English, maths, and science prerequisites were admitted directly into the freshman year without having to spend the first year in the preparatory programme. Students represent seven countries including Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, and Syria.

The 2017-2018 academic year also marked the launch and implementation of UCA's sophomore year curriculum. As part of UCA's five-year undergraduate programme, third-year sophomore curriculum blends courses on general humanities and scientific education with UCA's major discipline subjects.

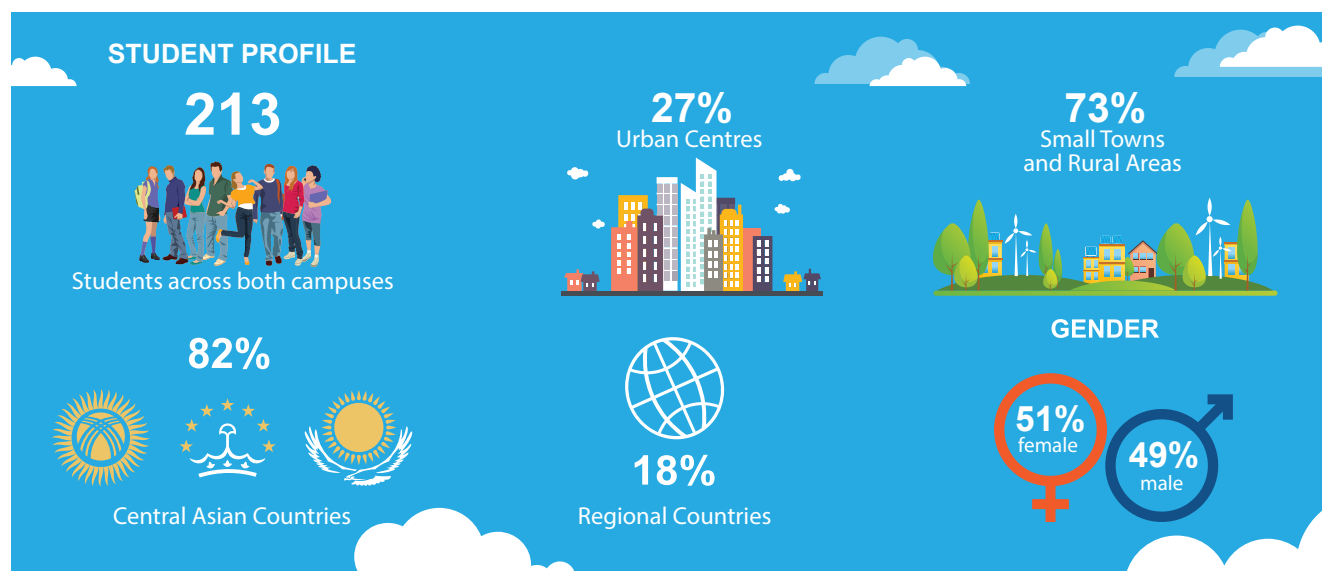
Pre-University Education

The fourth annual Summer Upgrading Camp was held from July 1-17, 2018 at the Naryn campus. The two-week residential academic enrichment camp is designed to upgrade English and math skills among Grade 10 students living in Central Asia and introduce them to UCA. Students also gained experience living away from home, interacted with students, faculty and staff from around the world, and developed soft skills including communication, leadership, and social skills. The Camp admitted 76 students from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan from over 460 applications. Nearly half of the participants received financial aid to attend the programme.

Preparatory Programme

In 2018, the Preparatory Year programme gained several new features. In addition to the established Orientation Programme which aims at helping new students transition into university life, and learn about campus culture, SAS offered an Academic Boot Camp and a Student Learning Support Centre.

The Academic Boot Camp evaluated the current academic level of the incoming class, and prepared students for studies at UCA. It included a pre-assessment test in math, an intensive revision of basic math, informed students about the interdisciplinary nature of UCA courses, and introduced educational technologies. The Student Learning Support Centre became fully operational in September 2018. It provides a dedicated platform for students to receive personalised support for their learning to ensure academic success.





A student study group at the Khorog campus.

In Semester 3 (May), Preparatory Year students participated in a Connecting to Your Discipline (CYD) module aimed at assisting them to choose which major they wish to pursue. Students participated in week-long experimental, and hands-on workshops, one for each major, led by facilitators specialising in their field. Most notably, Ali Velshi, TV journalist and MSNBC anchor facilitated the Economics Week at the Khorog campus, and delivered a guest lecture on Journalism at the Naryn campus. Alif Khalfan, Vice President of Product Management and Revenue at the Walt Disney Company, facilitated Computer Science week at the Naryn and Khorog campuses.

Cooperative Education Programme

Launching its first official cycle, UCA Cooperative Education Programme staff met with various employers and attracted 206 internship placement options in Summer 2018 across 18 cities in 7 countries: Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Russia and the United States. Seventy eight freshmen students completed internships, 11 of whom completed two placements. Students had placements in fields such as communications and marketing, monitoring and evaluation, business, finance, IT, geographic information systems, project management, research, human resources and education. Over 70% of the employers expressed satisfaction, highlighting students' high-standards in writing, research, and communication skills.

Faculty Development and Research

Eleven new faculty were recruited in 2018, with a total of 24 full-time faculty across the Naryn and Khorog campuses. Nine faculty members are from Central Asia, five from Asia, and ten from outside Asia. Additionally, UCA hosted ten visiting faculty members and a Fulbright Scholar to teach Kyrgyz,

Tajik and Russian languages, as well as liberal arts courses and geology. Seven faculty members hold joint appointments with UCA's Graduate School of Development.

All faculty are engaged in research in their own disciplines, as well as collaborative projects with UCA's research institutes. They also provided support to in-service and pre-service teacher training as part of their community service initiatives, working with local schools, Khorog State University, Naryn State University, UCA's Education Improvement Programme, and the Aga Khan Education Service.

UCA faculty delivered several public lectures, and also presented their research at over 20 conferences in 2018, ranging from discipline-specific workshops to large international conventions.

Publications



Asma Farooq, Ramzan Ali, Ali Cemal Benim (2018). Soret and Dufour Effects on Three Dimensional Oldroyd-B Fluid, in *Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications*, 503, 345- 354.



Murodbek Laldjebaev, Stephen Morreale, Benjamin Sovacool, Karim-Aly Kassam (2018). Rethinking energy security and services in practice: National vulnerability and three energy pathways in Tajikistan. *Energy Policy*, 114, 39-50.



University Partnerships

UCA's undergraduate curricula are being developed with international partner institutions, focusing on contextualised teaching material. In 2018, UCA faculty received training from the Higher School of Economics (Moscow) faculty and were introduced to newly developed pre-requisite course materials in Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. The Stockholm School of Economics in Riga and the University of British Columbia conducted contextualisation visits to UCA to ensure that the curriculum is responsive to the needs of Central Asia.

In addition, UCA's Cooperative Education programme established partnerships in 2018 with the Freie University (Germany), Tcell (Tajikistan), Soonchunhyang University (South Korea), ACIDI-VOCA through the United States Agency for International Development Enterprise Competitiveness Project, as well as the Kut Bilim newspaper.

Community Outreach

Community outreach activities and academic enrichment programmes, as well as team building and social activities, have been established to ensure active student engagement on campus and in surrounding communities. UCA's campus Community Engagement Committees focus on building strong and collaborative community and learning experiences. In 2018, outreach activities included the following:

- Students, faculty and staff participated in celebrations for Kyrgyzstan's Independence Day, the 150th Anniversary

of the Naryn Town, and Kyrgyz Language Day.

- UCA's student-run Razakar community service club organised several environmental clean-up activities and education outreach programmes in the Naryn community.
- UCA hosted a regional seminar on Disaster Risk Reduction, Water Management and Climate Change, organised by the Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan.
- Over 500 people attended a Healthy Living Festival organised on campus for the Khorog community. Doctors from the Khorog Health Centre provided health screenings on nutrition, optometry, diabetes, dentistry, oncology, and traditional medicine to the visitors.

UCA faculty also contributed to campus and local communities in Naryn and Khorog. They organised training and offered support in capacity building of English and science school teachers, as well as mentored and encouraged student societies. Some of community service offered by the faculty included the following:

- **Dr. Sultonbek Aksakolov**, Assistant Professor of History, organised and conducted a course on Research Methods for graduate and post-graduate students in humanities and social sciences from Khorog State University.
- **Hamid Khan**, Senior Lecturer in English for Academic



Parents day at the Khorog campus.

Purposes, conducted teacher training for English language teachers of Naryn city school teachers, SPCE, and Naryn State University. In addition, from January to May 2018, he offered pre-service teacher training to students at Naryn State University.

- **Dr. Kholiknazar Kuchakshoev**, Associate Professor of Mathematics, and **Dr. Genevieve Balderston**, Assistant Professor in English for Academic Purposes, initiated a Heptagon project aimed at improving the quality of math and English teaching in the rural areas of Badakhshan province. The project beneficiaries were junior-year students of Khorog State University, who are potential future math and English teachers in Khorog, and neighbouring districts and villages. Through this project, UCA strengthened communication with local community and expanded faculty research.
- **Robin Higgins**, University Counsellor, led a Khorog Youth Engagement Project.
- **Tojiniso Olimnazarova**, Lecturer in English for Academic Purposes, organised workshops for Khorog English language teachers to encourage best practices in teaching English in primary and secondary schools.
- **Maqsd Suriev**, Lecturer of Science, and **Ian Canlas**, Senior Lecturer of Science, conducted a 5-day training for 15

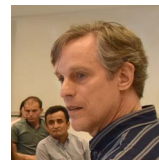
science teachers (in physics, biology and chemistry) from Aga Khan Lyceum and the Presidential School in Khorog.

Visitors on Campus

UCA welcomed over 13,000 visitors to its campuses in Naryn and Khorog in 2018, including officials and high-level visitors from the Founding States governments, AKDN agencies, international aid organisations, diplomatic corps, and universities. In addition, over 4,500 people visited the Khorog campus during a two-day Open Doors event held for members of the community, where students, faculty and staff conducted campus tours. UCA's student recruitment team also held Open Houses and Parents Days to introduce potential students, and parents of current students, to campus facilities, programmes and student life.

Guest Lectures at UCA

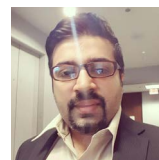
UCA hosted several guest speakers in Naryn and Khorog to enhance student knowledge in various fields:



Prof. Dr. Richard Foltz, Founding Director of the Centre for Iranian Studies at Concordia University in Montréal (Canada), on *The Silk Road: Domain of the Iranian People*.



Prof. Dr. Piotr Lorens, Head of Department of Urban Design and Regional Planning at the Faculty of Architecture of Gdansk University of Technology, on *The Role of Universities in Shaping Urban Development*.



Mr. Farid Premani, Public Speaker, Author, Radio Broadcaster and Market Research Consultant, on *Career Assessments and Preparing for Corporate Market and Entrepreneurship*.



Ms. Rabia Nasimi, a PhD Candidate at the University of Cambridge, on *One Woman's Journey from Afghanistan to Cambridge*.



Ms. Gulbarchyn Suyunova, Executive Director at Enactus Kyrgyzstan, on *Entrepreneurship, Action, and Enactus*.



Prof. Dr. Yudhishtir Raj Isar, Head of Education Programme at the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), on *The AKTC Role in Preserving Oriental Architecture*.



Dr. Andrei Dörre, Researcher at the Centre for Development Studies, Free University of Berlin, on *Local Knowledge-based and Self-organised Small-scale Irrigation Governance in the Western Pamirs and Challenges of Community-based Pasture Management in Kyrgyzstan*.

School of Professional and Continuing Education

The School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE) is a leading provider of post-secondary, short-cycle continuing education in Central Asia, as well as a publisher of over 350 academic textbooks. SPCE programmes are offered across ten learning centres in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan, and provide young people and adults professional and vocational qualifications in a flexible learning format that improves employment and income generating opportunities.

Programmes and Key Statistics

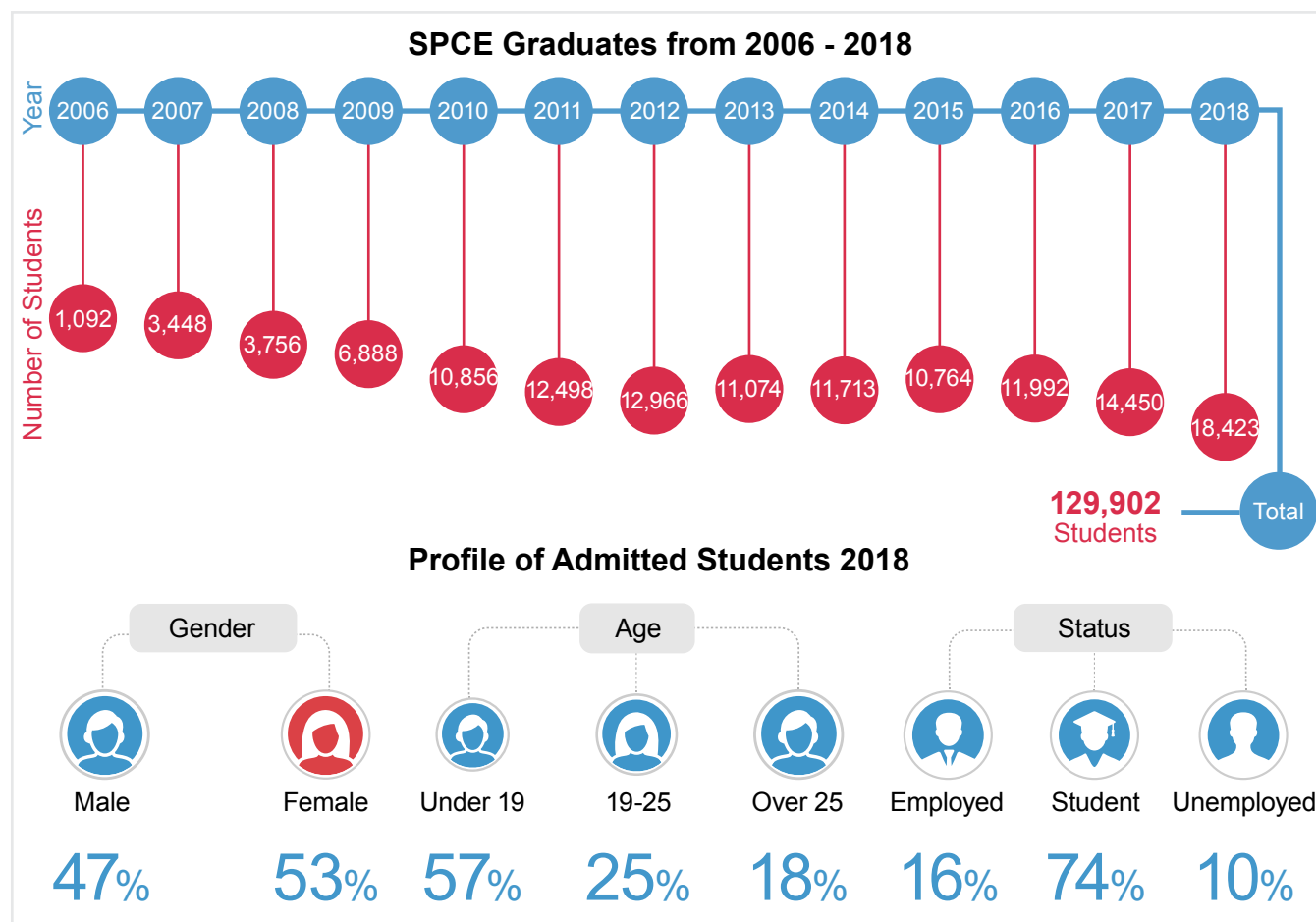
Founded in 2006, SPCE has graduated over 129,000 learners, of which women represent 53% in Central Asia and 57% in Afghanistan (compared to a national average of 23%). SPCE currently offers 94 course modules, delivered as part of a broad range of programmes, such as entrepreneurship, vocational training, English language classes, mental math for children, business planning, and small business management using mini-technologies. It employs 176 full-time and 300 part-time staff, 100% of whom are nationals of the three Founding States who have received extensive professional development.

In 2018, the enrollment reached the highest peak of 18,423 learners in SPCE's history, reflecting a 27% increase from previous years, mainly in Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Following the conclusion of the Multi-Input Area Development Project in Afghanistan in March 2018, SPCE continued offering its courses to over 2,500 students.

SPCE Khorog and Dushanbe enrollment in its Academic Achievement Programme (AAP) and Mental Math courses increased by 25%. There was also a noticeable increase in demand for short courses among youth. In 2018, SPCE published six tutorials in two languages with support from USAID, and four Information Technology books on 'Touch Typing Practice'.

Notable Achievements

SPCE delivered numerous short-term courses and professional development programmes, including Teacher Knowledge Test (TKT) trainings, and Trainings of Trainers on Social Entrepreneurship and Academic Writing. SPCE is the only official testing centre for many international qualifications through the International Computer Driving License (ICDL), Certified International Professional Accountant Examination Network, Test of English as a Foreign Language, IELTS, and the London Chamber of Commerce & Industry. SPCE learning centres are recognised as Cambridge Assessment English Centres.





In 2018, over 2,000 learners enrolled in SPCE programmes in Kyrgyzstan.

Throughout the year, SPCE provided professional development training for its instructors from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Afghanistan, and all were certified with TKT qualifications. In 2018, SPCE offered more than 700 Cambridge official examinations in Kyrgyzstan to teachers and students. Cambridge Assessment English tests are actively promoted in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, both in the educational and corporate sectors.



KYRGYZSTAN

- The Regional Administration and Youth Department of Naryn (Ministry of Youth and Sport) awarded SPCE Naryn as the Best Partner organisation in 2018. It was also invited to become a committee member of the Public Council of Education under Naryn’s Regional Governance.
- SPCE Naryn launched free English language courses for 14-17-year-old students from economically disadvantaged sectors, as part of a 2-year Access Microscholarship programme, funded by the United States Embassy in Kyrgyzstan.
- Twenty-one Naryn State University faculty received English language training within the Mountain Universities Partnership programme (2018-2020).
- Within a Youth Initiative Project, SPCE Naryn launched an Entrepreneurship study programme in Osh, Bishkek and Naryn regions, supported by USAID, UCA and the Aga Khan Foundation’s Mountain Societies Development Support Programme.
- SPCE Bishkek and the Coca-Cola Foundation launched a short-term Social Entrepreneurship programme for 20 finalists of the fourth annual “Change the World Around You!” competition. Finalists participated in a 12-day programme, providing them with the necessary knowledge and skills to further develop their business ideas. Upon completion, the six best business ideas were awarded up to US\$3,000 in grants to implement innovative community development projects across Kyrgyzstan.
- Three Mental Math teachers from Darwaz, Ishkashim and Shughnan (Afghanistan) participated in a Mental Math Methodology Training of Trainers in Bishkek. This was part of the “Pathways to Innovation: Strengthening Mathematics, Science, and Economic Policy Capacity in Afghanistan and Central Asia” project funded by the International Development Research Centre and Aga Khan Foundation Canada, and implemented by UCA.
- As a licensed Cambridge Assessment English Centre, SPCE Bishkek arranged testing for Grade 11 Academic Achievement Programme students, and 4 customs officers underwent Eng-



Amina Orozobekova, 10 years old, enrolled in SPCE’s mental math courses in Naryn. Six months later she won first place at the International Mental Arithmetic Competition in Dubai where she competed with 200 youth from 15 countries including Japan, China, Russia and Malaysia. She is continuing her studies at SPCE.

lish language training and certification, sponsored by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

- Within a Youth Initiative project, UCA is training 75 Information Technology Instructors from 50 secondary schools of Kyrgyzstan according to ICDL standards. Seventeen IT instructors and specialists have already been trained. The ICDL programme is being included in the curriculum of chosen secondary schools, which will further operate as ICDL test centres. The project will also deliver entrepreneurship training to 400 youth (100 annually) from different regions of Kyrgyzstan, and startup funds will be provided to the 40 best business ideas.
- Seventeen students from universities in Issyk-Kul, Osh, Talas, Jalal-Abad and Naryn gathered to exchange ideas and experiences on the future development of social entrepreneurship during an “Empowering Youth for Socioeconomic Development” event funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Notably, speakers included representatives from the International NGO Training and Research Centre, the Ashoka Foundation, “NotOnlyMam” NGO Kazakhstan, and an expert in Social Entrepreneurship from Russia.
- SPCE held three rounds of an ICDL Olympiad for secondary schools in Bishkek, aimed at promoting an international standard of computer literacy, and to compare various teaching systems. Over 230 school students competed in the first round, with the 14 best students selected as finalists for round two. Finalists were awarded with certificates and granted an opportunity to take the official exams free of charge.

- The Ilim Bishkek Educational Complex and SPCE signed an agreement allowing students to register for ICDL exams. In 2018, 169 students passed ICDL examinations in computer literacy skills.



TAJIKISTAN

- Over 500 students graduated from SPCE in Khorog and Dushanbe programmes and received certificates in English, accounting technology, mental math, as well as the Academic Achievement Programme.
- Dovud Imomnazarov, SPCE mental math learner, was the Champion of the IV International Olympiad in Kyrgyzstan.
- UCA implemented English Teaching Mentor, English for Journalists, and “Study With US” programmes, as well as an English course for Tajik Government officials, funded by the United States Embassy.
- Twenty-four instructors passed the Teaching Knowledge Test exam, ensuring up to date pedagogical and methodological skills.
- SPCE delivered admission tests for UCA’s Small and Medium Business Management (SMBM) programme across 11 locations in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO). Mentorships were also organised for 17 learners at 10 companies in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.



Students of Accounting Technology receiving their graduation certificates at SPCE Tekeli.

- Over 5,000 people attended outreach activities on financial literacy, reaching over 40,000 individuals through mass media and TV during SPCE's Global Money Week (GMW).
- Training of Trainers for mental math was piloted in Khorog for 12 potential instructors, 7 of whom were later employed.
- Twenty-four learners enrolled in a new IELTS preparation course at SPCE Khorog.
- A Summer Camp for 180 schoolchildren (68 boys and 112 girls) was organised by SPCE Khorog. The course was designed to enhance reading, writing, listening and speaking skills of schoolchildren.
- Overall 3,500 learners were enrolled into the SPCE courses and programmes in Afghanistan and 700 learners (40% women) graduated from the Conversational English, Cashier, and Information Technology programmes.
- SPCE launched a Mental Math programme and over 950 students (approximately 90% women) have completed the programme.
- SPCE Afghanistan also aims to increase gender awareness and general sensitivity in classrooms about gender inequality. To reach this goal, SPCE developed and implemented a Gender Responsive Learning Environment (GRLE) seminar for 524 learners in SPCE centres in Afghanistan. As part of the awareness campaign on gender diversity and female inclusive education, people other than SPCE staff and students were invited to participate in the training.



KAZAKHSTAN

- Over 300 learners received training in tourism through six tenders won by SPCE Tekeli. Courses covering the development of sustainable tourism, agritourism perspectives and types, quality service management for tour agents, hospitality and communications, and placement services.
- More than 100 learners participated in English language and "Social Entrepreneurship" programmes in Tekeli.
- A new Tourism for Sustainable Development course was conducted for 27 trainees and owners of Kolsai National Park guesthouses in Saty, Almaty. Participants learnt how to make souvenirs from felt, wood, iron and leather. Aigul Zhanserikova and Daulet Shokparov, well-known artists from Almaty, whose works have been exhibited in international markets, led the trainings. It was organised under the "Rukhani Zhangyru" State Programme.
- SPCE delivered an "Operator Grinding, Crushing and Sorting Machines" training within the framework of an agreement signed in 2015 between SPCE Tekeli, the Tekeli Akimat and National Chamber of Entrepreneurs. This was the third group that was trained by SPCE.
- SPCE Afghanistan initiates various capacity development trainings among women. Recently 150 women from Shughnan, Ishkashim, and Darwaz were trained on fruit processing and vegetable conservation, gardening and vegetation of plants, and basic bakery skills, as well as skills for launching and improving a business. It was implemented with support from the International Organisation for Migration.
- Over 400 learners graduated from SPCE Faizabad (30% women) and Shughnan, and received certificates in Conversational English, Cashier, Information Technology, and ICDL programmes.
- A short-term Office Assistant programme was launched for 104 women under the Afghanistan Community-Led Economic Stability (ACES) Project.



AFGHANISTAN

SPCE Afghanistan was created as a separate entity in 2018 and since 2014 has trained over 8,500 learners in Afghanistan. These include youth preparing for university admission, as well as young adults and mature learners seeking improved employment and income generating opportunities. Given the high demand of its educational services, SPCE will expand and launch a new centre in Shahr-e-Naw, Faizabad, in 2019, bringing the total to five learning centres in Afghanistan.

Alumni Survey

In 2018, SPCE conducted an alumni survey of 228 learners in Shughnan, Ishkashim, Faizabad and Darwaz:

- 19% of surveyed graduates of SPCE programmes are employed, and 71% are currently enrolled in high school and university studies.
- 100% of surveyed alumni confirmed that the courses SPCE offered were either exactly what was expected or better, and 81% rated SPCE course as 'much better than expected'.
- 48% of alumni confirmed that SPCE had positively influenced their lives. Many found jobs, were promoted, or launched and/or expanded their business.
- 100% of alumni in Afghanistan said they would recommend SPCE courses to friends.

Mountain Societies Research Institute

The Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI) is a transdisciplinary research institute within UCA's Graduate School of Development, dedicated to addressing the challenges and opportunities within Central Asian mountain communities and environments. MSRI's goal is to support and enhance the resilience and quality of life of mountain societies through the generation and application of sound scientific research.



Foothills of the Tien Shan mountains in Naryn Oblast (province).

In 2018, MSRI strengthened ongoing partnerships and research programmes, initiated new projects, conducted training sessions, Summer Schools, and workshops, and hosted the Fourth World Mountain Forum in Bishkek. Launched in November 2018, MSRI is also involved in a new project “Thrive Tajikistan: Enhancing Social Services, Governance, and Economic Inclusion in Border Regions”, jointly funded by USAID and AKF. In 2018, a project was launched with the Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan Fund for the Environment which focuses on “Bringing Nature and Society Together” through strategic dialogues and review of available data, particularly the value of mountain protected areas for local communities. Another new project leverages MSRI's expertise with AKF-Afghanistan to inform interventions through climate specific information derived from climate change scenario models (a European Commission for Climate Change project funded by the Aga Khan Foundation United Kingdom, and the European Commission).

Building Regional Research Capacity

The Pathways to Innovation project, funded by the International Development Research Centre, is strengthening research and educational capacity by supporting interdisciplinary en-

vironmental research in Central Asia and Afghanistan. MSRI has partnered with Khorog State University (Tajikistan), and Bamyan and Badakhshan Universities (Afghanistan), to advance innovation in natural resource management. As part of this project, MSRI is developing a Certificate Programme in Natural Resource Management to build capacity within the faculties of partner universities. The course, to be delivered in Summer 2019, includes modules on integrated agricultural management and food systems; livelihoods in rural mountain communities; natural hazards and disaster risk reduction; and adaptation to climate change.

During 2018, MSRI supported 11 applied research projects, including an intensive course on research design and methodology held in March. Research projects address diverse thematic areas including food security, environmental conservation, and tourism for income generation.

World Mountain Forum 2018

The fourth World Mountain Forum (WMF 2018) was hosted by the Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek on October 23-26 2018. The WMF was preceded by the Youth Mountain Forum sup-



ported by UNICEF, held on October 22nd 2018, that brought together students and young professionals committed to promoting sustainable futures for mountain regions and to tackle challenges of climate change. UCA undergraduate student, Alidovar Sodatsairov (pictured in photo above), a Youth Delegate, was selected to present the outcomes of the Youth Mountain Forum at the WMF.

The WMF 2018 was organised by MSRI, and supported by the Government of Switzerland and AKDN. The forum was convened under the auspices of the Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change Programme funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Approximately 300 participants attended the forum, which addressed the overarching theme, ‘Mountains in a Changing World: Strengthening Partnerships and Pathways Towards a Thriving Mountain Future’. With the overall objective of advancing the sustainable mountain development agenda globally, discussions over three days were organised around plenary sessions, parallel thematic tracks, poster presentations, and featured focus events. The thematic discussions on the first two days addressed three overarching topics: current trends and dynamics; pathways towards a sustainable mountain future; and partnerships and alliances to advance sustainable mountain development in alignment with the 2030 agenda.

On the final day, the participants developed and consolidated key messages contributing to the conference outcome document titled ‘A Call for Mountains’ and convened sessions exploring innovative partnerships and best practices in mobilisation and financing sustainable mountain development.

Sustainable Food Systems

MSRI continues to partner with the International Potato Center on the ‘Potato Production Support and Research to Improve Food Security in Khatlon (Phase II) Project’. The objective is to introduce and promote sweet potatoes (and other nutritious potatoes) offering new opportunities to reduce malnutrition and support food security in Tajikistan. The project, supported by USAID, will further promote promising practices and varieties.

MSRI contributed to the improvement of food security of local inhabitants living within walnut-fruit forests of Kyrgyzstan through investigating the potential of under utilised forest products (such as wild apples and mushrooms) for rural livelihoods. The socio-economic component of the project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Within the framework of the Aga Khan Development Network’s Multi-Input Area Development programme, MSRI investigated the use of new Copernicus Sentinel-2 satellite data and advanced Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to classify land cover, map croplands, and estimated the productivity of crops within a highly fragmented agricultural system of cross-border mountain regions of Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Despite the moderate resolution of the imagery, it demonstrated the potential for regional and local-scale monitoring of annual changes in land use, land cover, and yield estimations. Additional research on integrating historical yield data, with contributions of enhanced Sentinel-2 temporal data, is being conducted to improve accuracies of classification and prediction.

Social Dynamics and Resilience in Mountain Societies

With support from the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) in the United Kingdom, a project on ‘Improving Stability and Better Natural Resources Management in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan’ is comparing different models of resource management along Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan border areas with a focus on migration patterns and infrastructure changes. The study area coincides with the Mountain Societies Development Support Programme infrastructural interventions, leading to a holistic approach in which the research and infrastructure projects work together. Researchers live with the families of residents in border villages each season to build deep understanding of local challenges and problems they face in water and pasture management. Research findings are available at: www.ucentralasia.org/Research/MSRI_Publications/EN

Several important activities in the ‘Pathways to Resilience in Semi-arid Economies’ (PRISE) project were conducted in 2018. MSRI, in collaboration with the London School of Economics and Political Science, organised a workshop in April 2019 on ‘Predicting Future Food Security: A New Method for Measuring Resilience Using Data from Kyrgyzstan.’ Here, an innovative new tool to measure the resilience of rural households to extreme events and disasters was presented. The tool, designed using subjective methodologies, helps people to understand and communicate their resilience capacities. Results of three rounds of household surveys in Naryn, Jalal-Abad, and Batken provinces in Kyrgyzstan revealed that the tool is efficient, context-transferable, and identifies which households can maintain their food security in the face of shocks and stressors. Based on results of household surveys, an MSRI paper on subjective approaches to measuring resilience was developed. Additionally, several focus group discussions and in-depth interviews exploring the role of social capital in building resilience to climate-related and livelihood shocks were conducted in rural communities of Batken and Naryn provinces.

In 2019, MSRI will move its central office from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan to UCA’s Khorog campus in Tajikistan, keeping a research office in Bishkek to focus on Kyrgyzstan issues. The move will enable MSRI to expand its research activities in Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

Institute of Public Policy and Administration

The Institute of Public Policy and Administration (IPPA) was established in 2011 to strengthen public policymaking in Central Asia. It provides in-depth analyses of current and emerging policy issues facing the region and aims to improve the analytical capacity of governments and civil society to use evidence-based research in decision-making processes through professional development. IPPA is part of UCA's Graduate School of Development.



During 2018, IPPA launched new projects, strengthened existing partnerships, and contributed to the advancement of evidence-based policymaking in Afghanistan and Central Asia through research, training, and professional development initiatives. IPPA launched its Executive Masters in Economic Policy (EMEP) for Afghan civil servants through a partnership with the Ministry of Finance of Afghanistan (MoF).

With support from national and international partners and donors, IPPA's activities focused on economic policy, food security and agriculture, and public health. It also published seven new peer-reviewed working papers in English and Russian in an established series that has released 48 papers since 2012. Working papers are available for free download at https://ucentralasia.org/Research/IPPA_Publications/EN

Advancing Economic Policy

As part of the Pathways to Innovation initiative, IPPA works to strengthen analytical skills of Afghan and Kyrgyz civil servants, especially women, and representatives of civil society, including those drawn from professional and business associations, working in economic policy. It is supported by the International



IPPA conducted a workshop on Economic Policy for Technological Development in Central Asia in Bishkek, bringing together around 40 participants from government agencies, international organisations and associations, as well as academics and researchers.

Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Aga Khan Foundation Canada, and the Ministry of Finance, Afghanistan.

UCA signed a MOU with the Ministry of Finance of Afghanistan that engages staff of the Afghan government in an Executive Masters in Economic Policy (EMEP) offered by IPPA. EMEP is designed to equip civil servants with sound theoretical

Afghan students attending classes at UCA's Naryn campus as part of their Executive Masters in Economic Policy. The course responds to the realities and needs of Afghanistan, and is built around real world examples and case studies. Of the 25 civil servants attending the programme, 40% are women.



knowledge and tools of economic management and policy-making required to tackle issues faced by developing economies. The programme is tailored to Afghanistan's realities and needs, and is built around real-world examples and case studies. The first EMEP cohort launched in March includes 25 civil servants (40% women). IPPA also launched its Certificate Programme in Economic Policy (CPEP) which was offered in Russian to civil servants, independent analysts and staff at think-tanks and non-governmental organisations in Kyrgyzstan. IPPA will offer the second cycle of both EMEP and CPEP in 2019.

Life in Kyrgyzstan

The Fourth Annual 'Life in Kyrgyzstan' conference brought together over 150 participants from 11 countries, and aimed at discussing new insights on a range of social and economic developments in Kyrgyzstan and the Central Asia region. It was organised by IPPA, the Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops (IGZ), and the International Security and Development Center (ISDC) on October 17-18 in Bishkek. The conference speakers addressed a range of topics including education, social cohesion, energy policies, migration and remittances, social protection, household welfare, trade, local

development, climate change, child health, human capital, employment, technological development, social norms, agriculture, and data infrastructure.

Food Security and Agriculture

In partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (UN FAO) and Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, IPPA developed metrics to measure agricultural policy indicators in Kyrgyzstan. In 2018, IPPA collected data on major economic indicators, agriculture and trade covering the period 2005 to 2016, as well as detailed information on agriculture product value chains in Kyrgyzstan (beef, sheep meat, kidney beans, potato, wheat and milk).

IPPA also partnered with UN FAO to undertake technical analysis on issues and options for strengthening sustainable food and agriculture as a means to implement sustainable development goals relevant for the agricultural sector. The project aimed to strengthen awareness of key related Ministries and stakeholders on Sustainable Development Goals and Sustainable Food and Agriculture, as well as their capacities to take relevant aspects into account in their areas of work.

IPPA in collaboration with the International Maize and Wheat Center conducted an adoption and impact study on major wheat growing areas of Kyrgyzstan (Chui, Issyk-Kul, Osh)



IPPA Working Paper Series

Current State and Development Models of Technology in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

Nazgul Jenish

Working Paper #48 (Russian, October 2018, 46 p.)

ICT-Driven Technological and Industrial Upgrading in Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan: Current Realities and Opportunities

Nazgul Jenish

Working Paper #47 (English, October 2018, 82 p.)

Social Cohesion through Community-based Development in Kyrgyzstan

Damir Esenaliev, Aida Bolotbekova, Gulzhan Asylbek kyzy, Kanat Tilekeyev, Anastasia Aladysheva, Roman Mogilevskii and Tilman Brück

Working Paper #46 (English, August 2018, 56 p.)

How Forced Marriages Differ: Evidence on Assortative Mating in Kyrgyzstani Marriages

Charles M. Becker, Susan Steiner

Working Paper #45 (English, Russian, June 2018, 14 p.)

Kyrgyzstan's Accession to the Eurasian Economic Union: Measuring Economy-Wide Impacts and Uncertainties

Roman Mogilevskii, James Thurlow, Adeline Yeh

Working Paper #44 (English, Russian, March 2018, 26 p.)



Participants of the Life in Kyrgyzstan Conference.

Production and Exports of Kidney Beans in the Kyrgyz Republic: Value Chain Analysis

Kanat Tilekeyev, Roman Mogilevskii, Nazgul Abdrazakova, Shoola Dzhumayeva
Working Paper #43 (English, Russian, March 2018, 58 p.)

Tourism Sector in Kyrgyzstan: Trends and Challenges

Nazgul Jenish
Working Paper #42 (English, Russian, January 2018, 50 p.)

Independent Publications

One Belt, One Road: A New Source of Rent for Ruling Elites in Central Asia

Kemel Toktomushev, Chapter in Laruelle, M. China’s Belt and Road Initiative and Its Impact in Central Asia. (Washington, DC: The George Washington University, Central Asia Programme, 2018)

Understanding Conflict in the Cross-Border Areas of Central Asia: The Case of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

Kemel Toktomushev (Connections: The Quarterly Journal, Winter, 2018)

Kyrgyzstan

Roman Mogilevskii (Review of Agrifood Trade Policy in Post-Soviet Countries, 2016-2017. FAO, 2018)

Financial Inclusion, Regulation, Financial Literacy, and Financial Education in Tajikistan

Roman Mogilevskii, Shokhboz Asadov, (Asian Development Bank Institute (ADB) Working Paper No. 847, 2018)

in order to understand wheat production patterns, as well as the socio-economic and demographic situation of farmers who are growing wheat.

In partnership with the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies, IPPA is analysing strategies for stimulating the revitalisation of livestock husbandry in Kyrgyzstan.

IPPA also continues to support its online platform and mapping tools, Kyrgyzstan Spatial and Tajikistan Spatial, which provide a tested methodology to help policymakers and practitioners assess, anticipate, and respond to needs related to agriculture and food security in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The platforms were developed in partnership with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Reducing Stunting

In partnership with the Center for Global Child Health, Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), Toronto, Canada, IPPA executed quantitative and qualitative analyses of the drivers of stunting reduction in Kyrgyzstan. The consolidated report “Global Exemplars in Stunting Reduction: Kyrgyzstan Country Case Study” was issued in July 2018 and the final report is expected to be published in 2019.

Labour Market

IPPA is studying the top-down and bottom-up constraints to youth civic participation, and to increase youth’s readiness for opportunities in the Kyrgyz labour market. UCA is partnering with the Public Foundation Kyrgyzstan, Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP), the Aga Khan Foundation, Association for Social Entrepreneurs (ASE), and the International Debate Education Association (IDEA). It is funded by USAID.

Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit

The Graduate School of Development's Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit (CHHU) 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. Rich and diverse cultural heritage is preserved through CHHU research, documenting, archiving, and supporting work of regional scholars through UCA's Cultural Heritage Book Series.



Bronze Age jewelry found at the archaeological site at UCA's Naryn campus.

Archaeology Discoveries in Naryn

UCA hosted a team of archaeologists from Indiana University (IU) in the USA and the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) for archaeological excavations on the sites Aigyrzhal-2 and 3 located on UCA's Naryn campus. The Naryn Archaeological Project (NAP) has revealed that the Naryn Valley has a long and continuous history of human settlement. CHHU hosted a public lecture in which archaeological findings were presented to the local community by Dr. Aida Abdykanova, Associate Professor of the Anthropology of AUCA, and Dr. Anne Pyburn, from the Department of Anthropology at Indiana University in Bloomington. Based on these new insights, local communities are vigorously debating the question of creating a historical museum in Naryn to generate new knowledge about the area, attract tourists, and use archaeological findings in their school curriculum.

Book Launch

Two books by the renowned folklorist and Kyrgyz ethnographer, Dr. Sulaiman Kaiypov, were published by UCA in 2018: "Funeral Laments of the Pamiri Kyrgyz Living in Turkey" and "Proverbs and Sayings of the Pamiri Kyrgyz Living in Turkey". This is the first time that original texts of historical songs, proverbs, sayings, and funeral laments have been published in such detail. These works are the result of over 10 years of fieldwork by the author among the Afghan Pamiri-Kyrgyz living in the Van region of eastern Turkey. Dr. Kaiypov's goal was to analyze the multi-faceted genres of oral tradition, according to the highest academic standards, in an effort to broaden public interest and provide source material for linguists, folklorists, ethnographers, and university students in the fields of philology and ethnology. The Book Launch brought together over 200 people from the academic



Dr. Elmira Köchümkulova (left), Head of CHHU at UCA, addressing guests at the launch of two books authored by renowned folklorist and ethnographer Dr. Sulaiman Kaiypov (right).

sphere. In 2019, CHHU plans to develop a concise English translation of Kaiypov works into English, to expand access to information about the culture of the region.

Book Series

In cooperation with the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan, CHHU re-published a rare book from 1953, Mikhail Andreev's *Tajiks of the Khuf Valley*. This titanic work of over 800 pages, which describes and analyses the life of the Tajiks of the Khuf Valley, is now accessible online. CHHU also published a biographical book by Viktor Dubovitskii, on the life of a twentieth-century scholar, Andrei Madzhi, who studied the people and cultures of Central Asian countries. This book recounts the history of an entire era, told through the life story of a scholar, who was faithful to his research and scholarship.

Building Partnerships

In 2018, CHHU's staff contributed to several aspects of academic and cultural spheres in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, including collaboration with regional organisations to hold public lectures and trainings. Research Fellows led seminars, lectures, and workshops in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Dushanbe on topics such as Cultural Heritage and Tourism Development in Kyrgyzstan and solving social issues in their communities. In April, Research Fellows conducted a one-day seminar on Research Methods in Ethnomusicology for graduate and postgraduate students of National Conservatory of Tajikistan, delivered talks on scientific and astronomic aspects of Nowruz, and the culture of Nowruz, on national and international radio programmes and published several book chapters and articles in peer-reviewed journals.

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 cross-disciplinary framework.



AKHP held a workshop in Dushanbe on Introduction to Field Research for AKHP trainers from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan.

In 2018, AKHP courses were delivered at 87 educational institutions in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan; 61 were held at universities, and 26 at colleges or lyceums. The courses engaged 11,200 new learners who were taught by 122 lecturers, all of whom are graduates of AKHP's faculty development programme. From 2005 to 2018, AKHP has reached over 180,000 learners and engaged 1,800 instructors from UCA's Founding States.

Debate Training

AKHP delivered training on the Cross-Debate Format (CDF) and organised debate tournaments for over 700 AKHP students and representatives from non-governmental organisations and civil society associations in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Ka-



Participants of the AKHP Debate tournament.

zakhstan. It also hosted an English Language Central Asian Debate Academy on AKHP's CDF in Dushanbe for debaters from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, as well as its Third Central Asian Tournament on CDF.

Curriculum Development

In 2018, AKHP launched a new initiative to develop humanities curricula as a postgraduate programme. It aims to bring together academics to create guides on academic writing for research and debating for postgraduate humanities programmes, including academic works by well-known scholars, and teacher's guides on history, environment and economics.

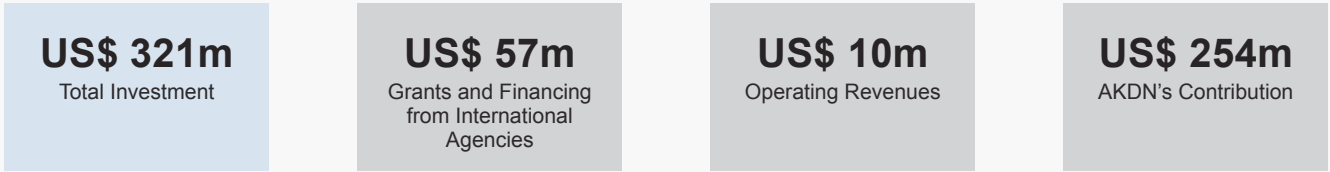
A planning sub-group was held in August to December to prepare programme materials. In 2019, AKHP will commence the pilot Master's programme course on the History of Central Asia at the Valikhanov Institute of History and Ethnology. Students will receive 5 course credits for completing modules on History, Environment, Economics, and the AKHP Cross Debate Format.

AKHP Public Lecture Series

Established in 2012, the AKHP Public Lecture Series present inter-disciplinary discourse between the humanities and natural sciences disciplines. In 2018, AKHP delivered 17 public lectures in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan reaching more than 700 individuals.

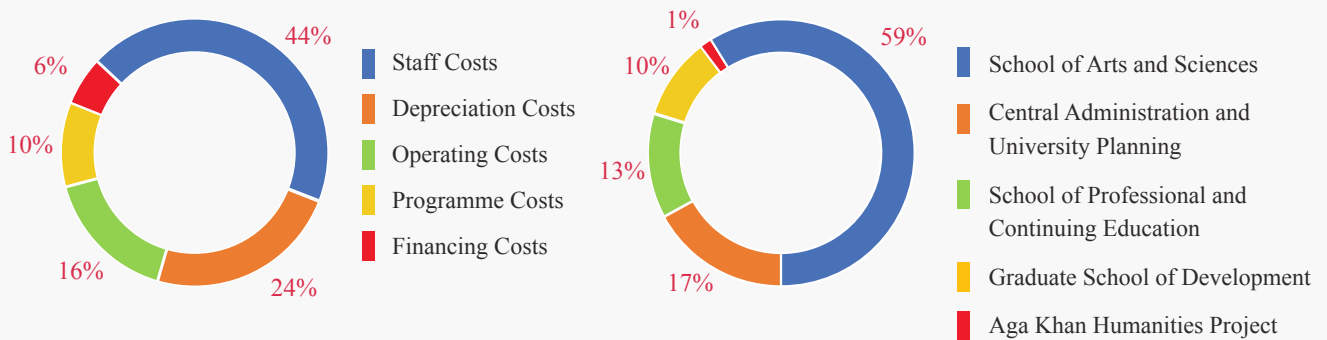
Financial Overview: 2018

Total investments, grants, and revenues since inception (2000-2018):



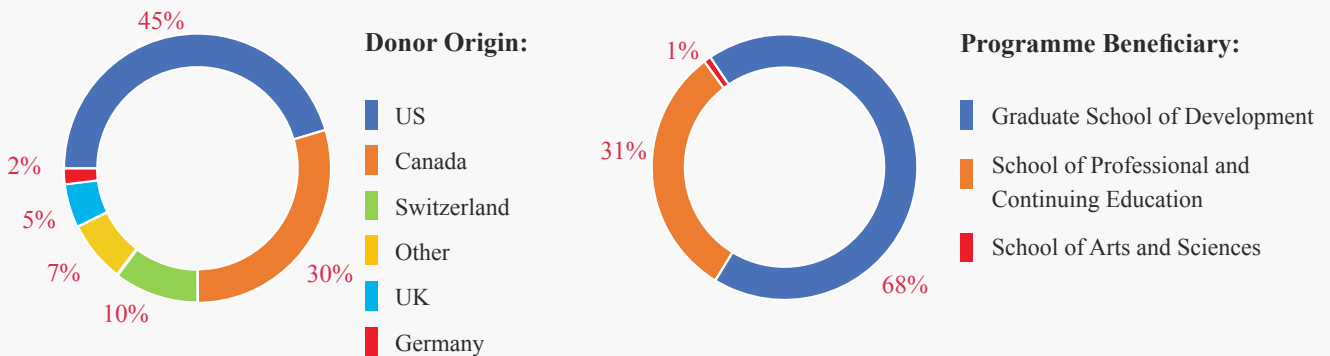
Operating Expenses in 2018

Total Operating Expenses: US\$ 22.5 million



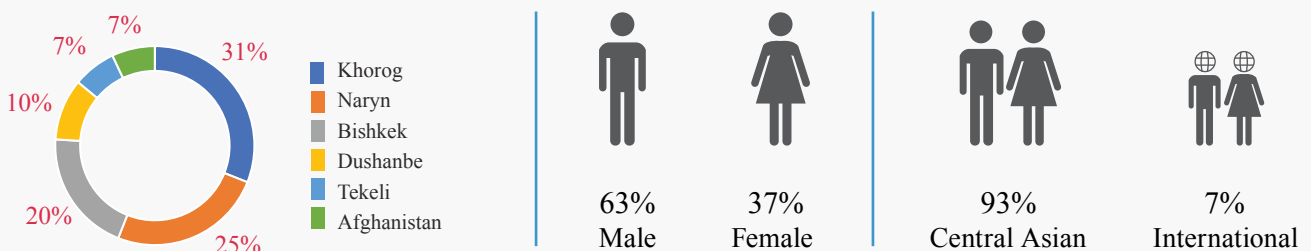
Distribution of Grants Received in 2018

Total grants received: US\$ 2.9 million



Human Resource Profile: 2018

Total Number of Faculty and Staff: 607





EY Ford Rhodes
Chartered Accountants
Progressive Plaza, Beaumont Road
P.O. Box 15541, Karachi 75530
Pakistan

UAN: +9221 111 11 39 37 (EYFR)
Tel: +9221 3565 0007-11
Fax: +9221 3568 1965
ey.khi@pk.ey.com
ey.com/pk

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To The Board of Trustees of the University of Central Asia

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the University of Central Asia ("the University"), which comprise of the balance sheet as at 31 December 2018, and the statement of income and expenses, statement of comprehensive income, and statement of cash flow and statement of changes in funds for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the University as at 31 December 2018, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the University as required by ISAs and have fulfilled our other responsibilities under its ethical requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with IFRS, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board of Trustees are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.



EY Ford Rhodes
Chartered Accountants
Progressive Plaza, Beaumont Road
P.O. Box 15541, Karachi 75530
Pakistan

UAN: +9221 111 11 39 37 (EYFR)
Tel: +9221 3565 0007-11
Fax: +9221 3568 1965
ey.khi@pk.ey.com
ey.com/pk

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the planning and performance of the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the University's internal control;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management;
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with Board of Trustees regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide Board of Trustees with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Chartered Accountants

Audit Engagement Partner: Omer Chughtai

Date: 04 April 2019

Karachi

Institutional Partners

The following institutional partners have contributed to UCA's programmes, and their support is gratefully acknowledged:

- Aga Khan Education Services
- Aga Khan Foundation
- Aga Khan University
- Almaty Management University, Kazakhstan
- Almaty Oblast Administration, Kazakhstan
- Asian Development Bank
- Awali Group, Canada
- Badakhshan University, Afghanistan
- Bamyan University, Afghanistan
- British Council
- Cambridge Assessment English
- Canadian Bureau for International Education
- Canadian Embassy, Kazakhstan
- Central Asian Institute for Applied Geosciences, Kyrgyzstan
- Certified International Professional Accountant Examination Network
- Coca-Cola Foundation
- College of the Rockies, Canada
- Conflict Stability and Security Fund (CSSF), UK
- Department for International Development (DFID)
- Department of Education of the Almaty Oblast, Kazakhstan
- Department of Tourism of the Almaty Oblast, Kazakhstan
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD)
- Embassy of the United States in Tajikistan
- Embassy of the Netherlands in Afghanistan
- European Commission (TEMPUS)
- European Computer Driving License Foundation
- European Union of Kyrgyzstan
- German Federal Ministry for Education and Research
- GFZ German Research Centre for Geoscience
- Global Affairs Canada
- Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) programme
- Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids)
- I. Arabaev Kyrgyz State University
- International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)
- Institute of Humanities in Khorog, Tajikistan
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada
- International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
- International Mountain Society (IMS)
- International Organisation for Migration
- International Potato Centre
- International Security and Development Center (ISDC), Berlin, Germany
- Jalal Abad State University, Kyrgyzstan
- Khorog State University, Tajikistan
- Khujand State University, Tajikistan
- Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank
- Kyrgyz National University
- Kyrgyz Russian Slavonic University
- Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Halle, Germany
- London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), UK
- Ministry of Economy of Kyrgyzstan
- Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Education and Science of Kyrgyzstan
- Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan
- Ministry of Finance of Afghanistan
- Mountain Partnership of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, Italy
- Mountain Societies Development and Support Programme (MSDSP)
- Naryn Oblast Administration, Kyrgyzstan
- Naryn Oblast Education Department, Kyrgyzstan
- Naryn State University, Kyrgyzstan
- Naryn Town Education Department, Kyrgyzstan
- National Academy of Science of Kyrgyzstan
- National Research University's Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia
- Osh State University, Kyrgyzstan
- Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) Palladium, London, England
- Pamir Energy Company, Tajikistan
- Public Association for Innovative Practices (PAIP)
- Russian Academy of Geography
- Seneca College, Canada
- Snow Leopard Trust
- State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry, Kyrgyzstan
- Stockholm School of Economics, Riga, Latvia
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Tajik Academic of Sciences
- Tajik National State University
- Tajik State University of Business and Politics in Khujand
- Teacher Training College Ishkashim, Afghanistan
- Teacher Training College Nusay, Afghanistan
- Teacher Training College Shughnan, Afghanistan
- The World Bank
- United Nations Agency for International Development (USAID)
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- United States Institute of Peace (USIP)
- United States Peace Corps University of Bern, Switzerland
- University of British Columbia, Canada
- University of Cambridge, UK
- University of Technology Sydney, Australia
- University of Toronto, Canada
- University of Victoria, Canada
- World Agroforestry Centre

University of Central Asia

Central Administration Office

138 Toktogul Street, Bishkek, 720001,
Kyrgyz Republic
Tel.: +996 (0) 312 910 822
Fax: +996 (0) 312 910 835
info@ucentralasia.org

UCA Naryn Campus

310 Lenin Street, Naryn, 722918,
Kyrgyz Republic
Tel: + 996 (3522) 57 820

UCA Khorog Campus

155 Qimatsho Imatshoev Street, Khorog, GBAO, 736000,
Republic of Tajikistan
Tel: +992 4464 08 220

Aga Khan Humanities Project, Dushanbe

47A Druzhba Narodov Avenue, Dushanbe, 734013,
Republic of Tajikistan
Tel: +992 (37) 224 58 23
+992 (37) 221 26 85
akhp.dushanbe@ucentralasia.org

School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE)

SPCE Learning Centre Bishkek

138 Toktogul Street, Bishkek, 720001,
Kyrgyz Republic
Tel.: +996 (0) 312 910 822
Fax: +996 (0) 312 910 835
spce.bishkek@ucentralasia.org

SPCE Learning Centre Naryn

19 Seitaaly Jakypov Street, Naryn, 722900,
Kyrgyz Republic
Tel: +996 (3522) 51 204
Fax: +996 (3522) 51 228
spce.naryn@ucentralasia.org

SPCE Learning Centre Khorog

126 Lenin Street, Khorog, GBAO, 736000,
Republic of Tajikistan
Tel.: +992 (3522) 22 277
Fax: +992 (3522) 22 778
spce.khorog@ucentralasia.org

SPCE Learning Centre Dushanbe

47A Druzhba Narodov Avenue, Dushanbe, 734013,
Republic of Tajikistan
Tel: +992 (37) 224 58 23+992 (37) 221 26 85
spce.dushanbe@ucentralasia.org

SPCE Learning Centre Dushanbe

Lane 3, 7/6 Negmat Karabaev Street, Dushanbe,
Republic of Tajikistan
Tel: +992 (48) 701 5218, +992 (48) 701 5219
spce.dushanbe@ucentralasia.org

SPCE Learning Centre Tekeli

13 Gagarin Street, Tekeli, 041700,
Republic of Kazakhstan
Tel: +7 (72835) 44 177 / +7 (72835) 43 444
Fax: +7 (72835) 43 849
spce.tekeli@ucentralasia.org

SPCE Learning Centre, Darwaz

Teacher Training College
Nusai, Darwaz, Afghanistan
Tel.: +(93) 77 742 95 94, +992 (93) 500 07 58
spce.darwaz@ucentralasia.org

SPCE Learning Centre, Ishkashim

Teacher Training College
Kozideh, Ishkashim, Afghanistan
Tel: +(93) 79 649 15 68, +992 (93) 133 60 10
spce.ishkashim@ucentralasia.org

SPCE Learning Centre, Faizabad


Badakhshan Business Center Building, 4th Floor,
New City - Faizabad, 25000, Afghanistan
Tel: +(93) 79 988 35 73
spce.faizabad@ucentralasia.org


SPCE Learning Centre, Shugnan

Teacher Training College
Shugnan, Afghanistan
Tel.: +(93) 72 884 22 00, +992 (93) 133 60 10
spce.shugnan@ucentralasia.org



 facebook.com/ucentraslasia

 twitter.com/ucentralasia

 vk.com/ucentralasia

 instagram.com/ucentralasia

 youtube.com/ucentralasia

 www.ucentralasia.org

Designed and produced by the Department of Advancement and Public Affairs
at the University of Central Asia