

UCA Welcomes the Class of 2028 with the Resonance of Bells



Bell Ringing Ceremony at UCA Khorog Campus: (L to R) Kholiknazar Kuchakshoev, Associate Dean, SAS; Aminjon Mirzoqandov, Head of the Education Department of GBAO, Tajikistan and Maxim Khomyakov, Dean, SAS.

The University of Central Asia's School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) welcomed 105 new students of the Class of 2028, along with 287 students from the returning cohorts, with its traditional Bell Ringing Ceremony at its residential campuses in Khorog, Tajikistan and Naryn, Kyrgyzstan. The Bell Ringing Ceremony is a cherished tradition at UCA, signifying the start of a new chapter in the lives of our incoming students. The sound of the bell also represents the ringing of knowledge, carrying profound symbolism.

SAS, based on the Liberal Arts approach to teaching and learning, offers Bachelor Degree programmes with majors in Computer Science, Communications and Media, Global Economics, and Earth and Environmental Sciences. Future plans include majors in Engineering Sciences and Business Management. SAS students have a demonstrated record of academic achievements as well as all-round excellence. They are winners of academic competitions, passionate advocates for the disadvantaged,

talented artists and musicians, award-winning athletes, and enthusiastic volunteers.

The Ceremony witnessed the presence of senior Tajik and Kyrgyz government officials, including Mr. Altynbek Ergeshov, Governor of Naryn Oblast, and Mr. Aminjon Mirzoqandov, Head of the Education Department of GBAO Oblast, Tajikistan. Both speakers recognised and applauded UCA's commitment to the development of the region.

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UCA Student Pursuing Journalism at Deutsche Welle

Madina Shogunbekova's heart skipped a beat as she could not believe that she had been selected for an internship at Deutsche Welle (DW), a German public international broadcaster. It was a dream come true for a young, determined senior student pursuing communications and media at UCA's School of Arts and Sciences, and the editor of a student-run magazine.

Shogunbekova began her internship with Deutsche Welle with anxiety but also determination to make the most of this incredible chance. Her internship journey began in the Russian language department, focusing on news writing. Madina poured her heart into the first piece about elections in Uzbekistan. The editor appreciated the article, leading to its publication in multiple

languages. [The article](#) even made it to the top three most-read news stories. As she continued her internship, Madina was enrolled into the TV team to work on production. She also started collaborating with the DW social media team to adapt news pieces for different platforms.

Praising Shogunbekova's extraordinary achievements, Lucy Palmer, lecturer at UCA, shared, "As a journalist, I instinctively understood what a major news outlet like Deutsche Welle was looking for when they approached us to offer a six-week internship at their office in Bonn, Germany. We had several applicants, but Shogunbekova was the most outstanding candidate due to her competence and leadership. Shogunbekova is very bright with an exceptional



Madina at Deutsche Welle in Bonn, Germany.

work ethic, and she is a fast learner with very proficient language skills in Russian and English.

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UCA Student at Deutsche Welle

She also has the ability to embrace challenges and to step up to her responsibilities without hesitation – even in areas that are completely new to her.”

Within the grand walls of Deutsche Welle, Madina is honored to be the only representative from Central Asia and the only undergraduate intern. Despite these distinctions, Madina is humbly working hard to learn Deutsche Welle’s editorial style, workflow, and ethical standards.

Reflecting on her journey, Madina acknowledges the vital role UCA has played in preparing her for this opportunity. Some students question the relevance of subjects like math and economics in media, but Madina has realised that the education in liberal arts has equipped her with a deep understanding of diverse subjects and contexts. “A true journalist is not just a skilled writer but someone who comprehends the subjects they report on.”

With every article she writes, and every social media post she crafts, Shogunbekova is making her mark with one meaningful story at a time.

Empowering Afghan Students for Graduate Studies



Dr. Marzhan Aikimbaeva teaching Afghan students.

The Afghanistan Research Initiative (ARI), implemented by UCA’s Graduate School of Development launched an innovative programme to prepare Afghan learners for their journey into graduate studies through a series of comprehensive online preparatory courses.

Over the period from August 2022 to May 2023, ARI delivered the “English for Academic Purposes” course, meticulously designed to equip two cohorts of Afghan students, comprising 42 individuals including 20 female students, with essential skills essential for excelling in graduate-level studies.

Building on the momentum, ARI has intro-

duced its second online preparatory course, titled “Statistical Reasoning & Data Analysis.” This course, led by Dr. Marzhan Aikimbaeva, an economist and research fellow at the Graduate School’s Institute of Public Policy and Administration, provides students with a deep understanding of statistical methods and the application of probability in data analysis. ARI aims to help sustain the research and capacity gains made over the last decade and continue producing knowledge critical to Afghanistan’s present and future.

ARI is supported by Canada’s International Development Research Centre and the Aga Khan Foundation, Canada.

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Addressing the audience, Mr Mirzoqandov stated, “It should be noted that the University of Central Asia has been steadily advancing its cooperation with the various structures of the Government of Tajikistan, local authorities of the region and its cities and districts, universities, institutes and organizations.”

In his remarks, Governor Ergeshov mentioned, “I would like to emphasise that with the opening of the University of Central Asia in Naryn City, an international center of education and culture has emerged...UCA, as a social partner, has already successfully implemented a series of investment projects aimed at the development of the Naryn city and the Naryn region.”

Dr Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of UCA, sent a video message during the Ceremony reminding

students, “Recall that UCA has a significant position in the communities where our campuses are located. You will be seen by them as the face of UCA – as Ambassadors of UCA. We therefore expect you to become valuable members and contributors to the communities of Khorog and Naryn; and not just to life on your campus.”

Highlighting UCA’s commitment to quality education, Dr Maxim Khomyakov, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, said, “Learning today is not something confined to the schools; the very life of the human being is nowadays co-extensive with learning. Today, learning has become a life-long practice, and the universities cannot anymore claim monopoly for it. That is why the best universities today aim at providing skills for future learning. They make the graduates capable of independent studies... The University of Central Asia is such a

university.” The Associate Deans, Dr Soheil Ashrafi and Dr Kholiknazar Kuchakshoev, also joined the celebrations.

Greeting the incoming class, Dr Christopher Gerry, Dean of UCA’s Graduate School of Development, said, “Now, in being part of UCA, you are also part of a unique idea and the realisation of a distinctive vision. A vision for a multi-campus, multi-country university located in and focused upon the development and quality of life of the mountain societies, economies and communities of Central Asia.”

During the Ceremony, the Class of 2028 presented to UCA faculty a Legacy Book containing the signatures of all cohorts that came before them. In addition, they sealed heartfelt letters to their future selves in a Time Capsule, to be opened upon their graduation.

UCA Fellow Shares Insights on Nomadic Ethics at International Conference in Mongolia



A. Baiymbetov presenting "The Concept of Ethics in the Worldview of Nomads."

Aibek Baiymbetov, a Research Fellow at UCA's Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit (CHHU), attended as a speaker and a co-author of the exhibition on modern traditional art "Origins" at the international conference "Nomadic Ethics and Intercultural Dialogue" in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The primary objective of this conference was to explore the complex and fascinating relationship between nomadic ethics and intercultural dialogue and the perspectives, challenges, and opportunities that arise at the intersection of these fields. The conference also aimed to foster a deeper understanding of nomadic cultures and their contributions to global ethics and intercultural communication.

At the conference, Aibek Baiymbetov presented his meticulous research on "The Concept of Ethics in the Worldview of Nomads," shedding light on the ethical underpinnings that shape the perspectives of nomadic societies.

CHHU's participation in this conference underlines UCA's commitment to promoting academic excellence and fostering interdisciplinary research in the region. Through such collaborations and engagements, UCA continues to contribute to the broader understanding of Central Asian cultures and their significance in a global context.

UCA Trains Kyrgyz Civil Servants on Cybersecurity and Internet of Things



Forum participants engaging in an interactive learning session using their mobile phones.

UCA's Institute of Public Policy and Administration Graduate School of Development recently organised an Information Technology (IT) forum to equip Kyrgyz civil servants with essential IT subjects such as cybercrime prevention, the potential of Kyrgyzstan's digital economy and practical applications of the "Internet of Things". The forum featured a series of expert presentations and included officials from the Kyrgyz Republic's Ministry of Digital Development along with representatives from various ministries and school directors. Indira Sharshenova, Dep-

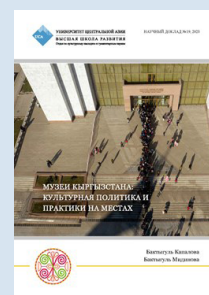
uty Minister of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic, emphasised the importance of safeguarding personal data in the digital space. She stated, "The protection of this data is the protection of our citizens and the security of the state."

Under the project "Digital CASA - Kyrgyz Republic" UCA has successfully trained over 800 civil servants, with women constituting more than 50% of the participants. These training sessions have been conducted in Osh, Chui, and Naryn provinces.

New CHHU Publication

Museums of Kyrgyzstan: Cultural Policy and Local Practices

UCA's Cultural and Humanities Unit Graduate School of Development has recently published a comprehensive research report on current trends shaping museum development in Kyrgyzstan. Rooted in on-site data collection, the report meticulously outlines the processes governing cultural policy implementation within museum domains. It also sheds light on the evolving interests and requirements of museum professionals in this field.



The report takes an in-depth look to answer crucial inquiries regarding how Kyrgyzstan's museums are adapting to the swift shifts of a changing global landscape. It also scrutinizes how these institutions are dedicatedly engaged in the exploration and preservation of local history.

This report holds significant value for an array of audiences, including museum professionals, ministries, researchers, and all those passionate about safeguarding Kyrgyzstan's rich cultural and historical heritage.

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Read the [publication in Russian](#).

UCA-Oxford Social Science Research Summer School



Dr. Ariell Ahearn, University of Oxford engaging Summer School participants.

UCA's Graduate School of Development and the University of Oxford jointly organised a Social Science Research Summer School in August 2023. This intensive learning program brought together talented UCA researchers and civil society organisations to enhance their research skills and foster international collaboration in the field of social science.

"We are thrilled to welcome distinguished faculty and researchers hailing from prestigious institutions like Oxford University, Cambridge, UBC, and Meiji University. Their presence aims to enhance our research prowess, enabling us to amplify our influence and engagement on a global scale," – says Dr Kemel Toktomushev, Senior Research Fellow at UCA's Institute of Public Policy and Administration.

The success of the Summer School was a testament to the strong partnership between UCA and the University of Oxford. The programme provided a platform for aspiring researchers to engage with international experts, expand their knowledge, and build lasting connections.

Dr. Ariell Ahearn, a Departmental Lecturer at the School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford, mentioned how the "Post-pandemic societies in Inner Asia project" aimed to strengthen research capacities among UCA researchers and civil society groups and aimed to help them to develop the ability to publish in English, contribute to academic debates, and lead their own research grants.

Dr. Troy Sternberg, a Senior Researcher at the School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford, shared with summer school participants his passion for studying the environment and landscapes of the Central Asia region. He anticipated collaborating with UCA researchers to publish a book centered on Kyrgyzstan, acknowledging the importance of having local voices contribute to a deeper understanding of the country.

Julian Dierkes, Coordinator of the Program on Inner Asia at the University of British Columbia, Canada expressed his delight in supporting aspiring researchers and their ambitions. With a focus on Mongolia and a keen interest in Central Asia, Dierkes viewed the collaboration with UCA as an opportunity for mutual learning.

Professor Yuki Morinaga of Meiji University, Japan a climatologist, presented a case study on Minamata disease in Japan, which was the result of serious pollution: "During the rapid economic growth, in a hurry to catch up with Western countries we did make many mistakes, so we can share what lessons can be learned from Minamata disease for areas where pollution problems are still serious."

Post-Pandemic Societies in Inner Asia (PPIA) research project is a collaboration between the University of Oxford, United Kingdom, Kagoshima University, Japan, UCA's Institute of Public Policy and Administration, and the National University of Mongolia.

AKHP Trains Educators from the Region in Humanities

The Aga Khan Humanities Project (AKHP), a unit of UCA's Graduate School of Development recently concluded a Refresher Training, on content knowledge and pedagogical skills, for 43 university teaching staff representing 22 academic institutions from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. The participants will serve as intellectual resource support to their respective universities.

The trainings aimed to help participants in comprehending, articulating, and effectively communicating the fundamental principles of the AKHP anthologies, including the new edition of the "Introduction to Humanities", now translated in Tajik, Kazakh, and Kyrgyz. Participants explored the underlying intellectual perspectives, philosophy, education-



AKHP training participants proudly displaying their certificates of completion.

al approaches, key messages, and content of this and other anthologies.

In addition to the training sessions, the

programme included tours to historical and contemporary sites in Dushanbe including the Tajik National Museum, the National Library, and the picturesque Varzob Valley.

UCA Football Tournament Promotes Unity and Friendship in Naryn



Naryn community team in action on the UCA Campus football field.

The University of Central Asia (UCA) is actively involved in a wide range of initiatives aimed at enhancing its engagement with the communities of Naryn and Khorog, the two towns that host UCA's campuses, and contributing to their social and economic development. These initiatives encompass a variety of activities, including English language classes for youth in villages, mobile libraries, health fairs, clean-up campaigns, various sports tournaments, and the cre-

ation of public spaces like small parks and playgrounds.

Another such cherished tradition in Naryn is the annual UCA Football Tournament that UCA has been organising annually since 2016 on the eve of the Kyrgyz Independence Day, 31 August. The Naryn Oblast Football Association is a partner in organising this event, designed to foster harmony, friendship, and a commitment to a healthy lifestyle. The event

brought together Naryn residents from all walks of life. At the end of the tournament, prizes were awarded for the top three teams. Individual awards were also given for the best player, best goalkeeper, best defender, best striker, and top scorer.

"This competition is a testament to UCA's dedication to its core values and its mission to make a positive impact on society. As this event celebrates the Kyrgyz Republic's Independence Day, it holds a special place in the hearts of all involved," said Elnura Asangazy kyzy, Vice-Mayor of Naryn in her address at the Prize-Giving Ceremony of the Tournament.

Kuban Chymyldakov, Director of Naryn Oblast Sports Department, expressed his gratitude, stating, "This annual competition, initiated by UCA in collaboration with the Naryn Town Sports Administration, brings us all together...On behalf of our leadership, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to UCA for their initiative and support."

Senior Official of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Delivers a Distinguished Public Lecture at UCA

Following her participation as a keynote speaker at UCA's 2023 graduation ceremony, Dr. Anita Zaidi, President Gender Equality Division of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, delivered a distinguished public lecture on "Building A Career Based on Service and Philanthropy". The session was attended by a large number of civil society practitioners, members of the academia, media, and the UCA community including faculty, students, and staff.

Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, Chairman UCA Board of Trustees, introduced Dr. Zaidi calling her "an exemplary figure for countless young individuals." Dr. Zaidi's lecture delved into several personal anecdotes of her philanthropic involvement. Acknowledging the significance of philanthropy, Dr. Zaidi reminded the audience of the philanthropic initiative of His Highness the Aga Khan in establishing the University of Central Asia.

"Philanthropy plays a very big role where the government capacity is limited. Philanthropy should cooperate with civil society and government, and it can be instrumental in lifting these countries out

of poverty," – stated Dr. Zaidi underlining the importance of philanthropy in driving positive change and sustainable development.

At the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Dr. Zaidi oversees the efforts of the Foundation to achieve gender equality by integrating gender across the Foundation's global work and investing in women's economic empowerment and women's leadership

enabling women and girls to thrive. Dr. Zaidi earned a medical degree, specializing in pediatric infectious diseases, at AKU and completed her further studies at Duke University, Harvard Medical School, and the Harvard School of Public Health. She has published more than 200 research papers on vaccine-preventable diseases and newborn infections in resource-limited settings.

[Watch the full video of the public lecture.](#)



Dr. Anita Zaidi addressing the audience at her public lecture at UCA.

UCA Research Fellow's Film Wins Prestigious Environmental Journalism Award



Aibek Baiymbetov, a Research Fellow at University of Central Asia's Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit Graduate School of Development, is one of nine talented filmmakers from Central and South Asia who directed the documentary series "Voices from the Roof of the World" (VRW) Season Two. This series was recently honoured by the Columbia Journalism School with the prestigious 2023 John B. Oakes Award for Distinguished Environmental Journalism.

The episode "Cold Wind Valley", directed by Aibek Baiymbetov, takes viewers on a journey through the Khan Tengri Nature

Park. The film shows the Sary-Jaz area, a unique place on the map of Kyrgyzstan, fringed by the highest peaks in the Tien Shan range, Peak Pobeda (7439 m) and Khan-Tengri (6995 m). The untouched nature of Khan Tengri Nature Park is already affected by a host of anthropogenic influences, including air pollution. The film is available for viewing on [YouTube](#).

The John B. Oakes Award for Distinguished Reporting on the Environment at Columbia Journalism School is given annually for news reporting that makes an exceptional contribution to the public's understanding

of environmental issues. It recognizes journalists whose work meets the highest standards of journalistic excellence.

The VRW documentary series has garnered widespread acclaim for its captivating storytelling, breathtaking visuals, and its ability to foster cross-cultural understanding. "We wanted to ensure that the voice of the voiceless is heard. Together with the talented filmmakers, we wanted to share their stories with a global audience," said VRW executive producer Andrew Tkach, who has over three decades of expertise in creating documentaries and reports and having been honoured with eight Emmys in the news and documentary category.

Voices from the Roof of the World is a joint initiative of the Aga Khan Development Network agencies: the University of Central Asia, Aga Khan University, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, and Aga Khan Foundation. VRW trains, mentors, and supports young filmmakers to produce groundbreaking environmental films about the consequences of climate change for the people and wildlife that are the least responsible for global warming but already shouldering its catastrophic impacts.

SPCE Holds Graduation Ceremonies

UCA's School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE) provides short cycle professional education courses designed to improve employment and income-generating opportunities for young women and men. It recently held a series of Graduation Ceremonies at Tekeli, Kazakhstan as well as at Bokhtar, Khorog, and Dushanbe in Tajikistan.

SPCE Khorog celebrated the passing out of the largest cohort of 200 learners who received certificates across a range of courses including Business Planning, Social Entrepreneurship, English for Medical Purposes, IT and TVET.

Aslikhan Marodbekov, one of the graduates of the Conversational English Programme, gave a speech at the ceremony. "I want to express my deepest gratitude to our incredible instructors for their immense contributions. You have tirelessly imparted knowledge, guided us through difficulties, and instilled in us a passion for learning. Your belief in us has been the driving force behind our accomplishments, and we

are forever grateful for your unconditional support".

The graduation ceremony of SPCE Dushanbe had the USA Ambassador to Tajikistan, H.E. Manuel P. Micaller as the Chief Guest. Speaking to the 72 graduates who were trained to be English language educators, he noted: "I am confident that this Continuous Professional Development has helped you all keep up with the latest developments in the field of English teaching and that you will be able to provide more engaging lessons relevant to today's students". The graduates included Afghan refugees. The Dushanbe centre also honoured its 45 Academic Achievement Programme graduates who were trained to qualify for international certifications in English, Mathematics, and Information Technology.

The ceremony in Tekeli ceremony saw the presence of several representatives of local government as well as graduates of previous years who displayed cultural performances. Nariman Estibaev, Head of Department of Education in Tekeli, expressed his gratitude for the work of SPCE. "It brings me immense



Deputy Head of Khatlon Oblast (R) presenting the letter of honour to SPCE Director, Dilovar Butabekov.

satisfaction to witness the presence of such an institution in Tekeli which, together with other schools, gives a powerful impetus to the development and education of students in the town".

At the Bokhtar ceremony, the Deputy Head of Khatlon Oblast, Sulaimonzoda Akram Rakhim, lauded SPCE's enterprising initiatives and its valuable contributions to professional and continuing education, including enriching entrepreneurship development in the region. Mr. Rakhim bestowed a letter of gratitude and a memento to the SPCE Director Dilovar Butabekov.

UCA Hosts Machine Learning Bootcamp in Naryn



Nurturing future tech experts during an intensive bootcamp at UCA Naryn Campus.

UCA's School of Arts and Sciences (SAS), in partnership with InkubasiaLab, a regional business accelerator, organised a week-long Machine Learning Bootcamp at its Naryn Campus. The programme brought together industry experts from Silicon Valley, USA to share their knowledge and experience, thus creating a unique learning opportunity for aspiring technology enthusiasts.

Munizha Hashim, a UCA undergraduate student majoring in Computer Sciences and

a participant in the Bootcamp, shared her enthusiasm, "Participating in the Bootcamp was an incredible experience. Through this collaboration with industry experts, I gained valuable insights into important topics of machine learning."

Expressing her gratitude, Elaine Young, Co-Founder of InkubasiaLab, said, "We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with UCA and appreciate the University for hosting the Bootcamp on its beautiful campus

and providing accommodations and meeting spaces. Our 15 Silicon Valley mentors were impressed with the dedication and enthusiasm shown by participants, and we are confident that they will apply their new skills to make a positive impact in their respective fields."

The Bootcamp not only provided students with a deeper understanding of machine learning theory but also equipped them with practical skills essential for today's job market. With Silicon Valley experts leading the way, participants had the opportunity to gain insights into the industry's latest trends and best practices.

"Considering the importance of Machine Learning in the field of Computer Sciences, it was a unique opportunity for our students to receive training from some of the highly talented professionals. We are committed to providing our students with the best platforms to improve their skills," said Dr Ayman Aljarbouh, Chair, Computer Science Department, SAS, UCA.

UCA Partners with Coursera to Enhance Learning Opportunities

In a significant development, UCA's Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology has partnered with Coursera, a globally renowned online learning platform, marking an important step towards expanding access to quality education. This partnership underscores UCA's commitment to providing innovative educational opportunities and highlights its dedication to staying at the forefront of educational excellence in the region.

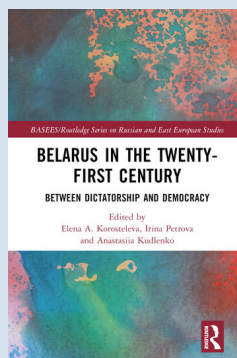
This partnership will specifically benefit students enrolled in UCA's School of Arts and Sciences (SAS), majoring in Computer Sciences and Global Economics. They will

gain access to Coursera specialisations, encompassing multiple courses alongside a capstone project. There are plans to introduce similar courses for the Earth and Environmental Sciences programme.

The courses will be facilitated by SAS instructors. While students will engage in self-study on the Coursera platform, regular meetings with instructors will complement their learning experience. This approach aims to provide support, supervision, and timely feedback from peers and instructors, combining the advantages of a residential campus setting with the opportunities afforded by educational technologies.



New Publication



Belarus in the Twenty-First Century Between Dictatorship and Democracy

The Dean of UCA's Graduate School of Development, Dr. Christopher Gerry, has written a chapter in the newly launched book, "Belarus in the XXI Century: Between Dictatorship and Democracy."

The book launch took place at Prince Philip House in London and was also broadcast via Zoom. "Belarus in the XXI Century" offers a comprehensive overview of the current developments in Belarus. It delves into the growing popular support for the urgent need for change in the country.

Dr. Gerry's chapter is titled "[COVID-19 in Belarus: Politics, Protests, and Public Health](#)".

UCA Fellow Earns Doctoral Degree on Mountainous Farming Systems Classification



Azamat Azarov sharing the culmination of years of research and dedication at his PhD defence.

To build local human capital, UCA collaborates with reputable partner universities to provide scholarships for Central Asian researchers to pursue their doctoral and post-doctoral studies in areas of relevance to Central Asia. This initiative is known as the Central Asian Faculty Development Programme (CAFDP).

Azamat Azarov, a fellow of UCA's CAFDP has successfully defended his doctoral thesis entitled "Development of methodology for mountainous farming systems classification: Case study of Tien Shan Mountains, Kyrgyzstan" at the Faculty of Tropical Agrisciences at the Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague. Azarov's research has resulted in the publication of two peer-reviewed papers and

an additional two under review. Azarov's supervisors include esteemed academics from Czech and German universities as well as UCA's Mountain Societies Research Institute.

The findings of Azarov's rigorous research will benefit policymakers and development practitioners in efforts to promote rural development of mountain regions that will alleviate current socio-economic disparities. As the region faces challenges related to agricultural productivity and adaptation to changing climatic conditions, Azarov's work stands to offer practical and context-specific solutions that could bolster food security and livelihoods across Central Asian mountain communities.

SPCE Student Secures First Place at HIPPO Olympiad in Turkey

Anisa Imomberdieva has secured first position in the prestigious HIPPO "English Without Borders" Olympiad held in Turkey. She has now qualified for the world finals in Rome, Italy. The HIPPO Olympiad is organised by the Global Hippo Association, an Italian non-profit dedicated to promoting English. Anisa Imomberdieva has previously won several international competitions, including in Mental Maths.

Anisa is a long-term student of the Khorog centre of UCA's School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE). Currently enrolled in the Academic Achievement Programme (AAP), she has completed several

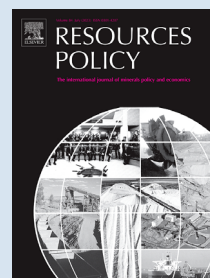
courses, including mental math, at SPCE.

Anisa's traces her fascination with the English language to her childhood conversations with her mother. "My early interest stemmed from my mother's practice of conversing with me in English. My teachers at school as well as at SPCE guided me throughout my Olympiad preparation journey and helped me hone my English skills. There will be lot of trials and challenges. Also, moments where you think you are not as smart as other students. Don't give up. Stay persistent and believe in yourself. Failings will give you more experience. You can't learn without them".

New IPPA Publication

The Role of Mining in Kyrgyzstan's Social Acceptance of Protest

Kemel Toktomushev, Senior Research Fellow at UCA's Institute of Public Policy and Administration Graduate School of Development, recently co-authored an article "The Role of Mining in Kyrgyzstan's Social Acceptance of Protest." This has been published in the esteemed journal Resources Policy.



In their research, the authors delve into how the experiences and techniques acquired from the extractive industry have shaped infrastructure related protests in the region. They specifically investigate the Naryn Province in Kyrgyzstan to understand how lessons learned from mining have informed and inspired community action.

[Read the full article](#), which offers readers a deeper understanding of the research findings and their implications.



Anisa Imomberdieva

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