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# The World Bank



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## **WORLD BANK LAUNCHES REGIONAL CENTRAL ASIA COUNTRY INNOVATION DAY 2003**

**ALMATY, December 10 , 2002**—The Central Asia Department of the World Bank announces launch of the Regional Central Asia Country Innovation Day (CID) and invites NGOs, businesses, academia, local governments, and foundations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to submit proposals for innovative programs using a Community Driven Development (CDD) approach.

The Country Innovation Day (CID) idea is based on the successful experience of the global Development Marketplace (DM), which was first tested by the World Bank in 1998. The DM is an opportunity for the social entrepreneurs around the world to develop and give voice to innovative ideas for addressing urgent development challenges. As **Mr. James. D. Wolfensohn, the President of the World Bank**, said: “ *The Development Marketplace is a real opportunity to come together, with no bureaucracy, with no preconditions, and no preconceptions about each other, just about ideas, and trying to see how we can help people. It is, in fact, the very best of development: people-based, partnership-based, with development impact.*” Evolved out of the DM concept, the Country Innovation Day is conceived as “mini market” for innovative ideas held at the national or regional level. CIDs are dedicated to identifying and supporting innovative development ideas, and building synergies among local and regional NGOs, the private sector, and government agencies.

The **theme** of the Central Asia Country Innovation Day is **Promoting innovative approaches in Community Driven Development (CDD)**. The main objective of CDD activities is to build capacity at the grass-roots level and in formal and informal institutions to enable income generation in both the private and public sectors. CDD approach is used to build capacity, strengthen social cohesion, and improve service delivery both at the grass-roots and municipal levels.

The Central Asia CID will be a competitive process open to local communities, national NGOs, private sector enterprises, and local government authorities in all five Central Asia countries. Proposals would be invited from both urban and rural communities.

Outline proposals, not exceeding 2 pages, should be submitted to the World Bank offices in all five countries of Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, no later than **February 7, 2003**. The proposals will be evaluated by the panel of assessors drawn from all parts of the development community. Selected semi-finalists will be invited to submit a more detailed

proposals (maximum 5 pages) by **March 28, 2003**. After the second round of thorough evaluation finalists will be invited to the Innovation Competition event, which will be held in **Bishkek, on May 21-23, 2003**. A Grand Jury comprising country representatives and internationally renowned practitioners in community development will evaluate each exhibited proposal against an objective score card and award funds to the winners.

The size of an Innovation Competition award will not exceed \$20,000. Proposed activities to be financed by these funds must entail a time frame for implementation of no more than one year from the first disbursement. One special grant in the amount of up to \$50,000 might be awarded to a regional innovative initiative that would embrace two or more Central Asia countries.

Competition guidelines and any other additional information about the Central Asia Country Innovation Day are available from the World Bank offices in Almaty, Astana, Ashgabat, Bishkek, Dushanbe, and Tashkent. Contact people in the World Bank offices are:

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