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Press Release



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WORLD BANK IN KAZAKHSTAN AND EURASIA FOUNDATION OF CENTRAL ASIA ANNOUNCE RESULTS OF GRANT COMPETITION FOR NGOS

ASTANA, Kazakhstan – The World Bank Country Office in Kazakhstan and Almaty Office of the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) are pleased to announce the results of the competition held under the joint Small Grants Program 2008 (SmGP) for the total amount of USD 50,000 for nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In 2008 the SmGP is focused on **engagement of population in the development processes**. With that, activities under proposed projects are to promote dialogue and dissemination of information, and enhance partnerships with key players in support of the development process.

The Program Team received 71 applications from urban and rural non-profit organizations working all over Kazakhstan to address the development issues. Selection of the winning projects was performed in accordance with the World Bank and EFCA policies and was concluded by the Grant Committee meeting with participation of invited donors. The Committee approved 9 projects. Size of an individual grant varied from USD 5,000 to USD 7,000.

NGO's from Ust-Kamenogorsk, Semipalatinsk, Karaganda, Kyzylorda, Zhezkazgan, Taldykorgan and Aralsk are among winners. Selected projects are aimed at local self-governance development, informing socially vulnerable population on guaranteed public services and promotion of their interests to resolve social problems, integration of disabled children in the society, activization of rural women, engagement of rural citizens in the development of rural communities, dissemination of information on principles and criteria of sustainable development in the light of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in the Republic of Kazakhstan, improving quality of school education, development of regulations for school forestry areas, and protection of fishermen's labor rights.

The Small Grants Program was created by the World Bank in 1983. During the period of program implementation in Kazakhstan from 1998 to 2008 the World Bank has supported 74 projects for the total amount of USD 333,000. In 2006 the founder of EFCA Eurasia Foundation joined the World Bank in this initiative as a partner donor. According to the agreement signed in May 2006, the Eurasia Foundation for the third time provides additional funding for the SmGP through its Open Door program. Within the Open Door program, EF reviews all proposals that fit within one of its mandated focus areas - private enterprise development, community development, education and public administration.

Detailed results of the Small Grants Program can be found at the web sites of the World Bank Country Office in Kazakhstan <http://www.worldbank.org.kz/> and Almaty Office of EFCA <http://www.efcentralasia.org>.



The World Bank is one of the biggest funding sources in Kazakhstan. World Bank's mission is poverty reduction and improvement of living standards of the population. Since 1992 the World Bank has provided more than 2 billion US dollars as preferential loans and grants for 32 projects in various areas (reforming public and private sector, agriculture, environment protection, infrastructure, etc.). Along with project funding the World Bank together with the Government of Kazakhstan conducts a number of analytical researches in the areas such as education and health, public expenditures and budgeting, administrative reform, etc. For detailed information about the World Bank in Kazakhstan please visit www.worldbank.org.kz



Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) is a public organization established in the region in 2005. EFCA mobilizes public and private resources helping citizens take active part in shaping their own future by means of strengthening local communities and improving their civic and economic wealth. EFCA continues activities of the Eurasia Foundation as a local institution. The Eurasia Foundation is a private noncommercial organization which has invested more than 40 million dollars in Central Asia since 1993. For more information about EFCA's programs and the list of independent advisory board members, please visit: <http://www.efcentralasia.org>



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