

# OUR DREAM IS A WORLD FREE OF POVERTY



THE WORLD BANK



UZBEKISTAN COUNTRY OFFICE NEWSLETTER

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## The World Bank Energy Sector Mission presented a report on Water and Energy Nexus in Central Asia



On March 12 2004 a consultative seminar on the issues of the energy sector was held in Tashkent to bring together officials of the government and other relevant institutions of Uzbekistan and the World Bank to discuss two important

studies made by the World Bank. The first study, entitled "The Study of Regional Energy Exporting Capacity", considers the potential for energy market development in Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries. The second study analyses water and energy problems in Central Asia with a focus on the Syrdarya River basin. The research data could lay a solid foundation for possible World Bank investment in the energy and water resource sectors in Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries. High ranking officials from various ministries and agencies, as well as from energy companies, participated in the seminar. The World Bank team was represented by the energy sector mission headed by Raghuvveer Sharma, the Bank's Lead Financial Analyst. Further discussions with the leadership of Central Asian Republics will be held in May 2004.

## Health II Negotiations

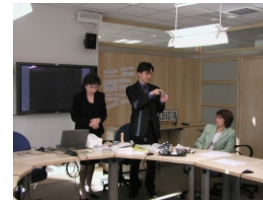
On March 15-18 negotiations between the Uzbekistan Government, International Development Association (IDA) and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) on the proposed loan for Health II Project were successfully held in Tashkent. Feruz Nazirov, Health Minister of Uzbekistan headed the Uzbek negotiation team. The World Bank team was led by John C. Langenbrunner, Senior economist (Health) of the ECA social development department.



The participants of the negotiations discussed the conditions of the agreements and a memorandum of actions to be taken. The purpose of this memorandum is to ensure that the agreed text of the Project will be approved by the IDA Board and the Bank, that relevant documents will be signed and other agreements become effective.

## Learning from each other: HIV/AIDS training for the WB CO staff

On March 25 a 4-hour session of HIV/AIDS training designed for UN staff was arranged for the WB Country Office by UN AIDS, UN FPA and Center for AIDS Control. Participants discussed the HIV/AIDS situation in the world, and in Central Asia in particular. Group discussions focused on the ways the HIV virus is transmitted.



The agenda included issues including epidemiology, serological gap, vulnerable groups, and access to diagnostic and treatment, as well as the issues of stigmatization and discrimination. Discussion on UN policy in the workplace relating to HIV infected UN staff was followed by group work where participants shared information on how they could organize activities at their workplaces



## PIC in action



The PIC in Uzbekistan participated in the 2004 Business Luncheon and Career Fair organized by the US Embassy in Uzbekistan and the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX). This event, held on April 24<sup>th</sup>, brought together alumni of US

academic programs and representatives of international agencies and large companies in Uzbekistan. Matluba Mukhamedova, the PIC/communications officer in Uzbekistan, was among the panel speakers. She explained the World Bank and its activities in Uzbekistan, as well as the career opportunities at the Bank, including the Internship Program, the Junior Professional Associates Program, and the Young Professionals Program. Dozens of handouts about the World Bank, brochures on PIC activities, and web-site print-outs were distributed at the event.



Uzbekistan Country Manager Martin Raiser took part in a meeting of a coalition of microfinance organizations in Tashkent on April 9. The establishment of a formal structure uniting all microfinance organizations in Uzbekistan was highly encouraged by IFC's Private Enterprise Partnerships' Microfinance Legislation Development Project

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