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THE WORLD BANK



UZBEKISTAN COUNTRY OFFICE NEWSLETTER

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A Grant Agreement to Support Agricultural Reforms in Uzbekistan



On June 10, 2004 the World Bank and the Government of Uzbekistan signed a US\$517,000 grant agreement. Funding is provided by the Government of Japan. The purpose of the Grant is to support the implementation of the Rural Enterprise Support Project, which main objectives are to:

- increase profitability in the agricultural sector;
- support private sector initiatives; and
- ensure sustainability of the agricultural sector by rehabilitating irrigation and drainage systems and improving farm management.

The Grant will finance training and consultant services to private agro-service centers and water user associations set up under the Rural Enterprise Support Project. These centers will train the newly created private enterprises in technical and financial matters and will make recommendations aimed at nationwide expanding of the model. The Grant will also help water user associations in the Project's pilot districts to develop water use accounting methods and improve financial management.

Small Grant Awards Announced



On June 10, 2004 the World Bank's Uzbekistan Country Office hosted a 2004 Small Grants Award meeting. The grantees of 2004 and 2003 and the donors, who took part in the project evaluation committee, gathered in the

International Business Center.

Welcoming the participants, Martin Raiser, the World Bank's Country Manager to Uzbekistan said: "Small Grants Program is a very small part of the World Bank's activities in Uzbekistan, though it gives the WB a chance to closer communicate with civil society. Civil society organizations bring innovative ideas and solutions as well as participatory approaches to solve local problems. It is really very good that there are people who don't wait for the government to help, but act for making a difference".

The Program coordinator Irina Tsoy told the participants about the evaluation process. In particular, she underlined a well-coordinated work of donor agencies, that had participated in the evaluation.

Ten Things You Never Knew About The World Bank In Uzbekistan

1. *The World Bank is helping Uzbekistan improve access to health care for people in rural areas*

The World Bank is helping Uzbekistan establish a health care system that is accessible, affordable and efficient. It is also helping reduce avoidable illnesses by improving poor people's access to essential health care. For example, a World Bank project has helped improve the quality of primary health care in five regions of Uzbekistan. Close to 300 primary care centers, serving 3.5 million people, have received new equipment. Also, the World Bank is financing training of medical professionals and advising on health care finance.



(To be continued in coming issues)



IFC Holds Seminars for Uzbek Entrepreneurs

From May 25 to June 2, 2004, Uzbekistan SME survey team presented a brochure for entrepreneurs "*What one should know about inspections?*" Presentations were held at the seminars on inspections related matters in Ferghana, Samarkand and Khorezm regions. The brochure has been prepared in close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and aimed at assisting entrepreneurs to protect violated rights and to increase the legal awareness of business community.

The seminars were organized in cooperation with the Republican Chamber of Commodity Producers and Entrepreneurs. Almost 300 people, including representatives of government agencies and business community attended the seminars

As an introductory part of all events, Power Point presentation were given to the participants, which mainly described key points of brochure and highlighted SME project activities implemented in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice.

Contact us at:

International Business Center, 15th floor, 107 B,
Amir Timur Street, Tashkent 700084

tel. (998 71) 138 59 50; fax: (998 71) 138 59 51/52
www.worldbank.org; www.worldbank.uz