**UNDP Uzbekistan**

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**Title of the trip/mission:** Project pilot site visit, Urgench, Khorezm province

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Climate Change Negotiations Component

**Destination:** Tashkent-Urgench-Tashkent

**Dates:** April 22-23, 2015

**Source of funding:** UNDP (TRAC)

**Please summarize main purpose of the visit and activities completed**

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| Visit to the LED project pilot site has been implemented in accordance with the approved APA for Y2015. The main objectives of the visit were as follows:   1. Conduct training workshop on how to use “E-course Module 3: International Climate Change Negotiations” for students of Urgench and Karakalpakstan State Universities and NGO KRASS; 2. Conduct a training workshop on integrated approach to energy saving in rural areas and energy efficient residential houses for local authorities and farmers of Khorezm province; 3. Supply the Extension Service Centre located at the Urgench State University with project publications relevant to biogas unit installation and disseminate the publications among the participating farmers; 4. Discuss with KRASS specialists on further events planned within the Extension Service Centre for 2015. Transfer office and biogas equipment to the Urgench State University; 5. Conduct monitoring of the pilot project site – Demo Center on Biogas Technology Deployment at the Urgench State University.   During the first day the Module 3 of the learning e-course that facilitates understanding of climate negotiations process was presented by the Project National Consultant on International Climate Change Negotiations Component to students of Urgench and Karakalpakstan (Nukus) State Universities. During the presentation 40 students learned about the main features of the module, which included interactive presentations, audiovisual materials, supporting website, online assessment and certification, and electronic feedback mechanisms. DVDs containing the e-course were distributed among the participants along with operating instructions of the software and details of the certification process. The students passed the first and second lessons of the module on-site so that they comprehended the main course principles. It is noteworthy that more than half the students were female (53%), which contribute to the project’s gender mainstreaming efforts. It has been agreed that as soon the students pass the Module-3, certificates will be provided (by early June 2015).  Later on that day Project Manager discussed with the Khorezm Rural Advisory Support Service (KRASS) possible cooperation activities within the established Extension Service Center for Farmers till the end of 2015. It became clear that recently KRASS discussed with UNESCO (another partner in promoting the Extension Service Center apart of LED project) an opportunity to provide a number of trainings on sustainable development for teachers and tutors of colleges and lyceums from the southern part of Karakalpakstan. The project and KRASS agreed that the issues of energy supply, energy efficiency and energy security as well renewable energy sources can be covered by the LED project team members during those trainings.  The second day was dedicated to workshop on integrated approach to energy saving in rural areas and energy efficient residential houses that was targeted at local authorities and farmers from Khorezm province.  Thus, information on application of renewable energy sources in Uzbekistan and methods to increase energy efficiency of rural houses were presented by the Project Specialist on Renewable Energy Sources to 34 local farmers. A series of videos relevant to modern thermal insulation materials and their cost, installation of biogas units, energy efficient greenhouses were demonstrated and attracted great attention of the participants. The project Specialist on Renewable Energy Sources and the project AFA disseminated the project promo-materials among the trainees and handed over to the Extension Service Center, including step-by-step manual on biogas installation and operation “Biogas: 11 Steps Towards the Success” and a promo-brochure “Make Your Home Warmer”, both in Uzbek and Russian languages.  A request to the project was made by Ms. Manzura Iskandarova, representative of Khorezm province municipality (khokimiyat) to the Project Manager. to develop proposals on what options can be proposed to cover needs of households in Khorezm province in electricity and heat supply, including workable and affordable renewable energy options. It was agreed that the Khorezm province khokimiyat will approach the Ministry of Economy (the implementing agency of LED project) with an official request to assist in development of the proposals.  In the second half of the day the Climate Change Specialist, the Project Manager, the project Specialist on Renewable Energy Sources and the project AFA monitored the project Demonstration Center on Biogas Technologies, which comprises the equipped classroom in the University and the biogas unit installed at the University’s pilot site located in Yangibazar village (Urgench district). It was noted that all the equipment items - both office and biogas ones - were at place and used for the targeted purposes. According to the requirements for the asset management applied by IPSAS, each item of the office and biogas equipment was tagged by the project inventory stickers. After this stock-taking procedure the LED project and the University signed documents on transfer of the office and biogas equipment items from temporary to permanent use by the University, according to decision of the project board meeting # 3 dated 16/11/2012.  Moreover, project team observed operation of energy efficient greenhouses implemented jointly by the University and the GEF Small Grant Program and guided by LED project. It was noted that both greenhouses – the solar-oriented one and film covered one – were fully operational and used for research by the University’s scientists and workers. Thus, this spring the workers used the solar-oriented greenhouse for growing seeding of tomato, cucumbers and melons. The seeding has grown well and was viable for planting in the open ground. According to expectations the tomato, cucumbers and melons that are grown from this seeding will became mature one month ahead of the relevant crops, which might give the planters good chances for selling the harvest with higher prices. |

**Please provide a brief description of next steps / follow up actions**

The LED project will continue presenting its e-course Module-3 on international climate change negotiations among national students and specialists. Thus, in framework of preparation to Youth Summit on Climate Change (planned for October 2015) the Module-3 on DVDs will be presented to the Embassy of France (co-organizer of the Youth Summit in Tashkent, as France is the host country to the forthcoming 21st Conference of the Parties under the UNFCCC) for dissemination among possible participating universities within their preparatory campaign. The LED project will track passing the Module-3 and obtaining certificates by students of Urgench and Karakalpakstan State Universities, which is a pre-requisite to participate in the Youth Summit.

The LED project will continue raising awareness of farmers and representatives of local khokimiyats regarding installation of biogas units and increase in energy efficiency in rural houses and greenhouses, available modern thermal insulation materials and their cost, throughout Uzbek provinces.

The LED project will continue disseminating its promo-materials “Biogas: 11 Steps Towards the Success” and “Make Your Home Warmer” in Uzbek and Russian languages.

Upon the official request from the Khorezm province khokimiyat the LED project will consider different options for households’ heating needs (such as biogas unit installation, coal and biomass briquettes, etc.), calculate their efficiency and recommend the most reasonable options. The calculations will be submitted to the Khorezm province khokimiyat for consideration and adoption as well as included in the list of investment proposals attached to the LED Strategy.

The LED project will contribute to events arranged by KRASS and UNESCO in the framework of the Extension Service Center for Farmersoperation on trainings on sustainable development target at teachers and tutors of colleges and lyceums of the southern Karakalpakstan. The project Specialist on RES will deliver presentations on energy efficiency, energy security and renewable energy sources.

**Information / Learning materials / Useful links available at:**

[www.leds.uz](http://www.leds.uz); [www.biogasgenerators.org/](http://www.biogasgenerators.org/)[www.urdu.uz/](http://www.urdu.uz/)[www.KRASS.uz](http://www.KRASS.uz)[rsr.akvo.org](http://www.akvo.com)

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