



DEVELOPMENT OF CAPACITIES OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN UZBEKISTAN” PROJECT NEWS

SUMMER 2010

This is the 2nd issue of the quarterly newsletter of the “Development of capacities of the national Human rights Institutions in Uzbekistan” Project of UNDP in Uzbekistan.

The main objective of the Project is to strengthen national capacities for promotion and protection of human rights and access to justice in Uzbekistan. The Project will achieve its outputs through development of the capacities of the national human rights institutions to effectively fulfill their mandates, to support free legal aid and contribute to human rights awareness raising via regional resource centers.

The Newsletter informs about the Project’s activities, as well as about current human rights related events in Uzbekistan and in the UN system. The issues of the Newsletter will be posted on UNDP intranet.

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Human rights news in Uzbekistan

August 28 – the Senate issued an act of amnesty. (<http://senat.uz/ru/news/2010/postanovlenie-senata-30-08-1.html>)

August 12 – the Legislative Chamber approved the draft law on crime prevention among juveniles and amendments to the law on notaries.

June-August – Ministry of Justice held a series of seminars the enhancing of the legal culture; the seminars also focused on the new law “On judicial examination”. (<http://www.minjust.uz/ru/content.scm?contentId=33638>)

July 29-30 - the Legislative Chamber discussed in the 1st reading the draft law on libraries.

15 July - Improving conditions for political parties and non-governmental organizations in Uzbekistan was the focus of a meeting organized today by the OSCE Office

for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, together with the National Human Rights Centre of Uzbekistan, the Justice Ministry and the Institute for the Study of Civil Society. Some 70 representatives of state institutions, civil society and the media, as well as international experts from several OSCE countries, reviewed Uzbekistan's experience with developing conditions for the work of political parties and NGOs and discussed ways to improve law and practice in light of OSCE commitments and other international standards. The meeting was organized as a follow-up to the visit of ODIHR Director Ambassador Janez Lenarcic to Tashkent in 2009 and builds on previous recommendations made by ODIHR, including those contained in a 2005 review of Uzbekistan's NGO legislation and the report on the December 2009 parliamentary elections. (www.osce.org/odihr/item_1_45294.html)

July 6 – the Legislative Chamber discussed the amendments to national laws related to the changes in the pension system.

June 25 –Joint meeting of the Senate committee on the

legislation and judicial reforms and City council of Tashkent discussed the legal framework for development of civil society bodies in Tashkent. (<http://senat.uz/ru/news/2010/25-1-06.html/>)

June 14 - The delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan made the statement regarding the recent events in Kyrgyzstan at the special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council.

It stated, i.a.: *“The events in Osh and Osh province are tantamount to genocide against the Uzbek population on the territory of Kyrgyzstan. These events have resulted in more than 75,000 refugees fleeing to Uzbekistan, primarily women, some of them pregnant, minors, nursing infants and elderly people.”* (www.osce.org/documents/pc/2010/06/44671_en.pdf)

June 2 – Seminar “Systematization of the legislation and issues of using electronic data bases” was held by the Ministry of Justice and German foundation for international legal cooperation in Tashkent (www.minjust.uz/ru/content.scm?contentId=32780)

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UN and human rights

UN Women - the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women born on 2nd of July, 2010

United Nations, New York, 2 July 2010 — In an historic move, the United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously today to create a new entity to accelerate progress in meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide. The establishment of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women — to be known as UN Women — is a result of years of negotiations between UN Member States and advocacy by the global women’s movement. It is part of the UN reform agenda, bringing together resources and mandates for greater impact. “I am grateful to Member States for having taken this major step forward for the world’s women and girls,” said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a statement welcoming the decision. “UN Women will significantly boost UN efforts to promote gender equality, expand opportunity, and tackle discrimination around the globe.” (<http://europeandcis.undp.org/gender/show/ACE1171E-F203-1EE9-BF2A73D70BE9B646>)

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Project news

Training of trainers – learning through a moot court



On 8-10 June, 2010 in Tashkent tutors and trainers from legal clinics underwent a training of trainers (TOT) in “Development of Moot Court Trials”.

Development of legal education is a part and parcel of the ongoing reforms of the legal system in Uzbekistan. The role of Legal Clinics, where law students develop their skills through pro bono legal service, is increasing. Nowadays five clinics are established in Tashkent, Namangan and Nukus.

The training, a follow up to the Economic Moot Court competition, aimed to develop law student’s skills to participate in court trials. During the training the participants mastered the methods of organizing and conducting moot courts on civil, criminal and commercial law.

During the training participants learnt how to use role games, develop case materials for moot courts, use instructions for trial participants and observers and receive feedback from the participants. Certificates along with sets of literature for Legal Clinics were granted to all participants upon completion of the training.

Participation in moot court trials gives students an opportunity to test their professional skills in real court conditions before they graduate. “The training gives us the knowledge we need, so we can create good learning conditions and effective methodological support for our students”, - said Victoriya Romanova, a trainer of SHAM

Legal Clinic.

The skills obtained by the trainees during this TOT will be part of activities of the legal clinics, and also the methodology will be used during a summer school which will be organized by the project team for legal clinic facilitators, trainers and students.

This training is part of the access to justice activities of the UNDP “Development of Capacities of National Human Rights Institutions in Uzbekistan” project . The main objective of the project is to strengthen national capacities for promotion and protection of human rights and access to justice in Uzbekistan. The Project will achieve its outputs through development of the capacities of the national human rights institutions to effectively fulfill their mandates, to support free legal aid and contribute to human rights awareness raising.

<http://www.undp.uz/en/news/story.php?id=1301>

Youth Theater Festival – Creative Success



Tashkent, 30 June

2010 - The UNDP “Development of Capacities of the National Human Rights Institutions in Uzbekistan (DCNHRI) project in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and the Kelajak Ovozi Center for Youth Initiatives hosted a youth theater festival. The event in support of the national “Year of Harmoniously Developed Generation” promoted gender awareness amongst youth through theatrical plays staged as “forum theaters”.

The forum theater approach uses interactive methods where both actors and audiences take part in the plays to resolve social issues. This technique can be applied in different situations with different purposes: assistance to an individual or change in minds of the members of a society on a specific issue.

The Youth Theatrical Festival is part of the “Gender and Development” subproject that also includes trainings of trainers on gender topics as well as theater-based

trainings involving volunteers from UNDP regional resource centers, UNFPA-supported Y-PEER network and Kelajak ovozi. Prior to taking part in the festival, the volunteers attended master classes on acting and scenic language.

Thanks to efforts, new volunteers have joined the existing network of UNDP volunteers already working in Andijan, Jizzakh, Navoi, Surkhandarya, Ferghana and Khorezm regions. More than 150 volunteers, members of the UNDP Resource Centres supported by the DCNHRI will be conducting trainings and staged theatrical plays on gender issues for communities in pilot regions.

<http://www.undp.uz/en/news/story.php?id=1321>

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Setting a National Action Plan on CEDAW



Tashkent, 12 June

2010 - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Uzbekistan in cooperation with the National Human Rights Center and the Women’s Committee organized a roundtable on the implementation of the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

The Republic of Uzbekistan joined the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1995 and since has been regularly providing its periodical reports. In the first months of 2010, the CEDAW Committee reviewed the 4th national report of Uzbekistan and provided its concluding observations and provisions. Based on these recommendations, the National Human Rights Center and the Women’s Committee drafted the National Action Plan .

Representatives from the legislative, executive and judicial branches, as well as NGOs and media took part in the event and got familiar with the observations of the CEDAW Committee and discussed the draft action plan. In particular, proposed actions included use of

gender segregated statistics, new laws on equal opportunities and combating domestic violence and enhancing information campaigns on women's rights through web media.

The presentation of the "CEDAW in questions and answers" book was a welcome addition to the event. The book is a result of joint work between UNDP, the National Human Rights Center and the Women's Committee. As part of knowledge enhancement efforts UNDP presented sets of legal literature to the National Human Rights Center, Ombudsman and Legal Training Center under the Ministry of Justice and others.

Before adjourning the participants were informed about the decision of the 64 session of the UN General Assembly on establishment of a new gender mechanism called UN WOMEN.

<http://www.undp.uz/en/news/story.php?id=1318>

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Human Rights trainings for law enforcement and judiciary bodies



Tashkent – Samarkand,

July 1 – 8, 2010. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Republic of Uzbekistan organized a series of trainings on 'Implementation of the Convention against Torture in the work of judiciary and law-enforcement bodies'. The trainings were organized in cooperation with the Department for Human Rights Protection of the Ministry of Interior, the Research Center under the Supreme Court and the Legal Training Center under the Ministry of Justice.

The Republic of Uzbekistan joined the Convention against Torture on August 31, 1995. In 2005 it presented the first National Action Plan on its implementation. The 2009 National Action plan on follow-up to the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Council after consideration of the Universal Periodic Review of Uzbekistan also contains measures to combat torture. This Action plan foresees training of

the police officers on the principles of the Convention against Torture and training of judges on addressing complaints about torture during trials.

The trainings raised awareness on the provisions of international and national laws against torture and any forms of cruel and degrading treatment, as well as capacity building in addressing complaints about torture.

The participants of the trainings included representatives of law enforcement officers from Tashkent, Tashkent region, Samarkand, Navoi and Djizzak. The trainings were facilitated by international trainers - Mr. Sławomir Cybulski and Ms. Bogna Chmielewska, who have experience in organizing similar trainings for law-enforcement institutions in Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries.

The trainings were organized by the UNDP "Development capacities of the national human rights institutions" project. The main objective of the project is to strengthen national capacities for promotion and protection of human rights and access to justice in Uzbekistan. The project will achieve its outputs through strengthening capacities of national human rights institutions to effectively fulfill their mandates.

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Summer School of Legal Clinics



August 11-19,

2010, in Summer School for students and tutors of legal clinics of Uzbekistan took place in the mountain resort in Chimgan. It gathered 68 participants from 5 legal clinics of Namangan, Nukus and Tashkent cities.

"Legal Clinics", where law students provide pro bono legal aid for the poor, become increasingly effective mechanism of legal support. During the Summer School

the future lawyers were trained to participate in civil court trails of first instance and court of appeal. The students learned how to prepare to civil procedure, to analyze circumstances and draft of necessary etc. The participants took part in two moot courts of first instance and court of appeal on civil case. The cases concerned protection of labour rights of people with disabilities and the rights of the child. The representatives of legal clinics participated in competition in rhetorical skills. Alibek Khudaybergenov, student of Legal Clinic under Karakalpak University, won the competition.

One of the most important components of Summer School become training of Yana Chicherina and Shakhnoza Ikramova from UNDP "ACCESS" Project for protection of rights of people with disabilities.

Akmal Sharopov, student, Legal Clinic under the University of World Economy and Diplomacy: "The Summer School provided an opportunity to learn what it means to be a lawyer. A also made a lot of friends here... I understood that a game is a very serious form of study."

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Upcoming events

September

- *Training on habeas corpus for the judges, law-enforcement and lawyers in Ferghana
- *Roundtable on implementation of habeas corpus in Uzbekistan
- *Civil law moot court competition among legal clinics
- *TOT for project volunteers on rights of people with disabilities
- *Consumer rights trainings for the State Committee on Demonopolization and Support of Competition

October

- *Training on habeas corpus for the judges, law-enforcement and lawyers in Nukus and Urgench
- *Consumer rights trainings for the State Committee on Demonopolization and Support of Competition
- *Convention Against Torture trainings for the Ministry of Interior
- *Study tour to Czech Republic on legal clinical education and legal aid
- *Web portal on consumer rights to be launched

November

- *Training on habeas corpus for the judges, law-enforcement and lawyers in Bukhara and Navoi
- * Consumer rights trainings for the State Committee on Demonopolization and Support of Competition
- *Convention Against Torture trainings for the Ministry of Interior
- *Training for the Ombudsman's staff on complaints handling, strategic planning and communication planning
- *National conference on legal clinical education
- *Web portal on legal clinical education to be launched

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Our partners

National Human Rights Centre, Ombudsman's Office, The Research Center on Democratization and Liberalization of Judicial Legislation and Insuring of Independence of Judicial System under the Supreme Court, Training Center under the Ministry of Justice, Law Departments of Universities; State Committee on Demonopolization and Support of Competition; Federation of the societies for protection of consumer rights, Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Interior ; Kelajak Ovozi

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