



ABOVE: DEBATE STUDENTS GATHER FOR TRAININGS (PG 2)

USG Alumni Newsletter

Zinatullo Ismailov: Building Local Media as a Civic-Engagement Platform

Independent media is a central component of promoting democratization. These institutions are especially important in rural regions, where access to information is often limited. In order to develop this capacity, Zinatullo Ismailov, Dzhaloluddin Ahmad and AzorabekAzorabekov organized a training session in Tursunzade with funding from the U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe.

The training consisted of 3 days of intensive workshops aimed at honing entrepreneurship, marketing strategies, and professional development for journalists. Staff from three took part in the program.

Participants had a particular interest in Tajikistan's transition to digital broadcasting and how to grow local television stations and increase access to potential audiences.

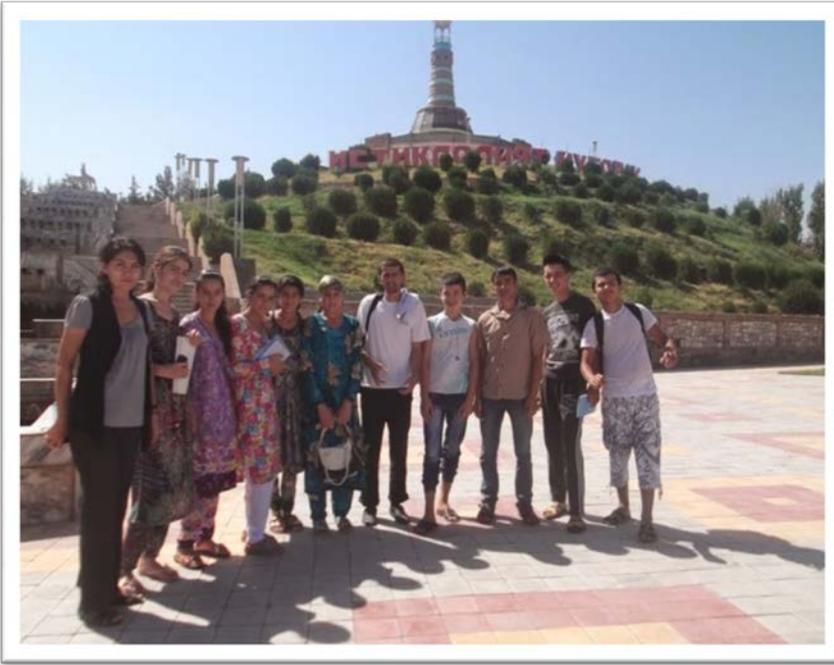
The focus of much of the training was on developing the capacity of small regional and city-based radio and television broadcasting services. Special attention was also placed on examining how public broadcast companies can help

build connections between individuals and communities and create a platform for civic-



engagement.

ShamsulloMirzoev: Organizing Tajikistan's First Access Debate Competition



ShamsulloMirzoev, along with English Access students and Young Leader Program participants in Rasht, have organized the first English Access Debate Tournament in Tajikistan. This project engaged seven boys and five girls from Gharm, Qurghan-Teppa and Kairokkum.

Students started their debates at the American Corner in Gharm and had the opportunity to travel to The American Corner in Qurghan-Teppa, Dushanbe, and the Multikid Center in Kairokkum. Participants Visiting Famous Attractions in Tajikistan While students were exposed to the styles and techniques of debating, they also enjoyed an immersive education program centered around culture and leadership development.

Students visited local sites at the different cities - Bibikhonum in Qurghan-Teppa, NosiriKhusrav and IsmoiliSomoni Parks in Dushanbe, and Arbob Palace in Khujand. These trips exposed the students to new regions and famous landmarks of their country. A wide range of topics were covered in the debates, including: "English is more useful than Russian in Tajikistan", "mothers should stay at home and look after their children", and "Students should be required to wear uniforms at school". Students Engaging in Lively Debates The program gave students an exciting avenue for practicing their English, critical thinking skills, and persuasive skills.

HAMADONYMUZAFAROV: BUILDING SELF-CONFIDENCE THROUGH SEWING

With the support of a U.S. Embassy Alumni Outreach Grant, HamadonyMuzafarov, alumnus of the SUSI, TEA and E-Teacher Scholarship Program, organized a sewing course for twenty young women in Navdi Village in Rasht.

The workshop, which was open to girls over the age of sixteen, sought to help participants gain practical skills and build self-confidence.



ZEBOMURODOVA: PROMOTING A LOVE FOR LITERATURE IN QURGHONTEPPA

The English Reading Club at the American Corner in Qurghonteppa is an initiative of ZeboMurodova, alumna of the Fulbright and TEA programs.

Every Wednesday, students of different ages gather and are encouraged to read books from the American Corner. The books are chosen according to different dates, holidays, events, and themes.

After each book, students write a book report and discuss the lessons they learned. This process helps the students to develop their reading and listening skills and enlarge their vocabulary. After each book there are number of new words. Vocabulary games are played in order to reinforce the learned material.

Joining the club gives students an opportunity to not only enhance their critical thinking skills, but also provides an opportunity for individuals to foster relationships and belong to a group.



“Everything I know I learned from books” said ZeboMurodova. She has taken her love for books and used it to help spread Tajik culture; Murodova, along with students from Sarband, translated Tajik Folk Tales into English.

You can visit their blog and find out more about their program at <http://readingworms.blogspot.com>

KOSIMOVARANO: USING SPORTS AS AN AIDS AWARENESS TOOL

On October 8th, 2014, a "World Without AIDS" event was held in School #3 in Vahdat, This program sought to engage students in sporting events and raise their awareness about the status of AIDS in Tajikistan and around the world.

Over one-hundred people participated in the event, and the basketball team from the Technological University of Tajikistan in Dushanbe made a special appearance!

The program proved popular in attracting girls and boys alike, and future events centered on AIDS awareness are being planned.



KHOJAEVAZEBO: WOMEN AGAINST RADICALISM

As part of the project, “Women against Radicalism”, a leadership seminar for women was hosted in the Asht District. Topics included roles in the workplace, gender stereotypes, and women in the spheres of family and society life.

A central question that participants focused on was the nature of leadership; is it an innate quality that one is born with or can it be developed? The workshop’s focus on stereotypes helped dispel many of the inaccurate misconceptions concerning what a woman can and should be.

Coaches used role-playing to make the topics more accessible to the participants.



ZEE ALIMOVAGAFUROVA: ENCOURAGING CIVIC- ENGAGEMENT IN KHUJAND

On November 8th through the 12th, a five-day workshop was held for twenty-five students from

Khujand. The program, which was funded by a U.S. Embassy Alumni Small Grant, sought to engage students in the study of democracy, volunteering, and debate. Each session paid particular attention to developing leadership qualities and encouraging civic-engagement.

Students were taught about their constitutional rights and how citizens can give back to their communities and country.

Volunteers, who included DilraboChoukri, Anora Rahim, MashhourPochoev, MirzorahimOlimzodaZebohonGafurov, Rasulzode Madina, and ŪsupovuUmedžonu, used interactive teaching methods to keep students interested in the subject materials. The participants were exposed to environmental issues, as well as topics concerning civic-engagement and the benefits of volunteering.



HAMADONYMUZAFAROV: PROMOTING HAND-WASHING IN KOCHON

On December 27, 2014, as a part of the Girls' Empowerment Club, which is supported by the U.S. Embassy with a Alumni Outreach Small Grant, volunteers conducted a training about the importance hand-washing with twelve schoolgirls from a Kochon.

The training focused on increasing the participant's knowledge about how washing hands before a meal and after using the restroom prevents many diseases. Volunteers are continually working on topics that are needed for their communities and striving to make a difference in their regions.