



# **BUSINESS INSIGHT**

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



Issue #59  
January-February 2023



# BUSINESS INSIGHT

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

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## Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the American Chamber of Commerce and the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce



On January 9, 2023, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the American Chamber of Commerce and the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce with the aim of developing bilateral trade and business relations between the United States of America and the Kyrgyz Republic.

On the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce side, the Memorandum was signed by the President&CEO of the Chamber, Mr. Randy Peers. On the part of the American Chamber of Commerce in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Memorandum was signed by Executive Director Mr. Dastan Imanaliev.

The parties discussed topical issues and prospects for the development of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, as well as discussed, the need to maintain contacts between the Chambers, exchange experience, information and participation in joint events and working meetings.

\*Founded on February 6, 1918, the Brooklyn Chamber see itself as a protector and promoter of the commercial and industrial interests of the city. The Brooklyn Chamber has developed and nurtured an active civic spirit and sought to safeguard and improve living conditions and social welfare for local businesses and residents.

The Brooklyn Chamber consistently works to offer top-quality services and new opportunities for its members. It advances the borough through outstanding promotion, support and advocacy as Brooklyn's leading economic development organization.

## Regional Digital Trade Workshop on Stakeholder Engagement seminar in Tbilisi, Georgia



From January 17 – 20, 2023, Dastan Imanaliev, Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in the Kyrgyz Republic, participates in Regional Digital Trade Workshop on Stakeholder Engagement seminar organized by the Commercial Law Development Program of United States Department of Commerce.

The seminar is attended by government officials, private sector, representatives from Central Asia and the United States, the American Chambers of Commerce of Central Asia.

The seminar will present world best practices and recommendations for regional cooperation in the field of digital trade and recommendations for the regional working group. The objectives of this workshop are to promote stakeholder dialogue on digital trade, provide mechanisms for ongoing cooperation in the field of digital trade between US and Central Asian government officials, the private sector, civil society and international organizations, exchange information and provide a platform for eliminating barriers, problems in order to study regulatory approaches, international

best practices and new solutions in the field of digital trade.

The event was organized by the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP). CLDP is a legal technical assistance office within United States Department of Commerce. CLDP's mandate is to work with emerging economies to improve the policy, legal, and regulatory conditions for trade, investment, and commercial activity.

## Business Breakfast “Doing Business in the United States” for AmCham Members



On February 2, 2023, at the Park Hotel, a Business Breakfast “Doing Business in the United States” was held. The speakers of the event were Temirbek Chodurov, Development Director of DSKA Engineering Co., IRONMAN, triathlete, and Vitaliy Yen, Managing Partner of Lex Law Firm, CEO of Global Smart Post in the USA, Master Franchisee of Mail Boxes Etc.

The event was attended by heads and top managers of the companies from different areas of business. The event was informal, open, and all presentations were accompanied by lively discussions.

Doing business overseas represents an important step in a company’s development in a completely new market. Success requires the integration of a wide range of knowledge

and skills, including marketing, finance, project management, strategic management, and other.

During the event speakers discussed the challenges of opening a business in the United States, the legal and business aspects of doing business, as well as how to invest and doing projects in the United States. Speakers shared their experience of developing and doing business in the United States. The guests actively participated in the discussion and asked quite specific questions to the speakers.



## AmCham networking event “CEO Night”



On February 10, 2022, the first AmCham networking event “CEO Night” took place, in which members of the Category A took part. This format of the event was developed at the numerous requests of the association members and showed its success.

Note that over the past year, the Chamber has expanded significantly, especially Category A, which has grown by more than twenty new members. We would like to continue our successful partnership and look forward to your participation in our events and projects that we have planned for 2023.

The Chamber has expanded over the past year, especially the Category A which has grown by more than twenty new company-members. We would like to continue our successful partnership and look forward to your participation in

our events and projects that we have planned for 2023.

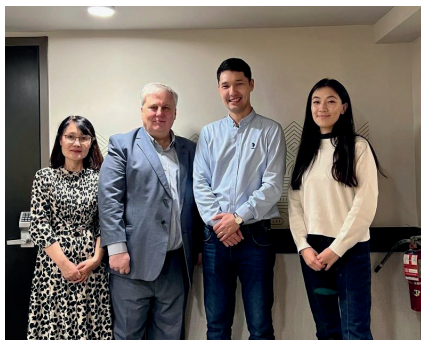
The networking event “CEO Night” was attended by top managers and founders of companies. During the event, the guests, in an informal setting, met with other AmCham members, learned more about partners, established strong business relations and had a nice time.

The AmCham “CEO Night” event will be held each quarter for members of the Category A.

All of us in AmCham Kyrgyzstan are grateful to our members for a pleasant evening and hope that this event will soon become a good tradition when they can meet each other in a warm friendly atmosphere and chat.



## The American Chamber of Commerce in the Kyrgyz Republic and the American World Chamber of Commerce signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation



The American Chamber of Commerce in the Kyrgyz Republic and the American World Trade Chamber of Commerce signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation.

The main purpose of the Memorandum is to establish mutual understanding, develop mutually beneficial cooperation between the United States of America and the Kyrgyz Republic.

The document was signed by Mr. Dastan Imanaliev, Executive Director, and Mr. Alex Sonifrank, Affinity and Partnerships Manager.

The parties discussed topical issues and prospects for the development of bilateral cooperation between the Chambers, as well as discussed issues of exchange of experience, information and participation in joint events and working meetings.

\*The American World Trade Chamber of Commerce goal is to support and promote U.S. exports and U.S. based exporting companies. AWTCC works with American exporters and forwarders throughout the world. They are the only National Chamber in the United States accredited by the International Chamber of Commerce, which means their documents are recognized globally and can be verified online by overseas Customs authorities via the ICC Certificate of Origin verification portal.

Documents they work with include electronic Certificates of Origin, Certificates of Free Sale, Certified Invoices, Manufacturer's Declarations, Agent and Distributor documentation and numerous legal documents related to international trade. They also have relationships with foreign embassies and consulates, as well as the U.S. Department of State, where they process thousands of legalized documents every year.

## The training session the topic “Leadership tools in the AI era – competitive business and operational models”



On February 28, 2023, a training session was held for members of the Chamber on the topic “Leadership tools in the AI era – competitive business and operational models” within the framework of the project “Business promotion and entrepreneurship empowerment through dialogue” supported by the U.S. Embassy Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

The event was aimed at creating modern competitive business strategies and their promotion technologies. Our speaker, Tatyana Shahin-Baylo, an expert in digital



transformation, strategic communication, change management and personal branding, shared best practices analytics of more than 100 companies and the latest knowledge in digital models from one of the world's top business schools, Harvard Business School. With over 20 years of practical experience in top management at major international companies, donor projects, and government agencies, Tatyana is also the founder of a consulting agency that has helped companies, governmental bodies, donor projects, public persons, and politicians to develop and implement their



unique promotion strategies.

During the training, Tatyana discussed transformational processes at the level of building the architecture and organization of business processes. She talked about the modern communication matrix of acceptance and promotion of changes and modern AI factories. The participants gained valuable insights into the use of AI in creating competitive business strategies and learned about the latest operational models in the AI era.

## The Annual AmCham Bowling Tournament for the members of the Chamber



On February 21, 2023, the American Chamber of Commerce in the Kyrgyz Republic hosted the Annual AmCham Bowling Tournament for the members of the Chamber at the Cosmopark Bowling Center. The event brought together twelve teams who competed for the titles of “Best Team,” second and third places, and “Best Player”:

- Coca Cola Bishkek Bottlers
- Food Dream (KFC)
- “FINCA Bank” CJSC
- “Demir Kyrgyz International Bank” CJSC (DKIB)
- Dos Credobank OJSC
- M-Vector LLC
- World Class Bishkek
- Freedom Finance JSC
- Green Light
- LEX Law Firm
- Baker Tilly Bishkek
- Bishkek International School



The tournament was held in a friendly atmosphere, with participants cheering each other on and enjoying the competitive spirit of the event. The teams put up an impressive display of skill and teamwork, making it a thrilling contest for everyone involved.



At the end of the tournament, the winners were announced, with “FINCA Bank” CJSC taking home the title of “Best Team” and Nurlan Bakyt uulu earning the recognition of “Best Player” with the highest points. The second and third places were awarded to LEX Law Firm and Food Dream (KFC), respectively. Congratulations!

AmCham would like to express our gratitude to the sponsors and partners Coca Cola Bishkek Bottlers, Food Dream (KFC) and Abdysh-Ata LLC who generously provided prizes for the teams. Without their support, this event would not have been possible. We are proud to have such dedicated and supportive partners in our Chamber community.



Overall, the Bowling Tournament was a great success, and we look forward to hosting similar events in the future. We hope that this event brought our members closer together, and we thank everyone who participated and made it a memorable experience.



## The Chamber participated in the presentation of the Program for Improving the Business Environment in Central Asian Countries (IBECA)



On February 27, 2023, the American Chamber of Commerce participated in the presentation of the Program for Improving the Business Environment in Central Asian Countries (IBECA), implemented by the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE).

CIPE, together with local partners, will work to create favorable conditions for businesses and ensure economic security in the region. IBECA, a three-year program, aims to support private sector initiatives in advocating for business environment reforms; strengthening the private sector's capacity to access financing and investment; identifying

opportunities for promoting US investments in the private sector; and supporting the creation of regional expert and business networks, as well as international linkages to attract investments through regional diplomatic and business dialogue platforms (C5+1 and B5+1) in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss national business agenda issues, including barriers and priorities necessary for improving the business environment, conducting economic reforms, and achieving regional economic integration.

The Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) is an affiliated non-profit organization of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. CIPE's mission is to strengthen democracy around the world through private enterprise and market-oriented reforms. Over the past four decades, CIPE has implemented more than 2,800 programs in 138 countries worldwide.

## Payment and transfers by a single QR-code in application ELSOM!



ELSOM introduces a new service to its clients that gives possibility of instant payment using a single QR code in any trade and service enterprise (TSE) that has a single QR code standard, as well as the ability to make transfers to the wallets and applications of other Banks by means of a single QR code.

These transactions are already available in ELSOM mobile application and make it possible to unite all users of mobile payment applications in the country into a single system, making it easier for the population to access financial services. The system of a single QR code provides a high level of security for all participants of the process.

The user does not need to enter payment details manually as a single QR code can automatically recognize all the necessary data.

### Advantages of a single QR-code:

- **Free** payments and transfers -0%.
- Economy of time when paying for a product or service as QR code scanning is instant.
- Ability to receive or send transfers to other wallets and applications
- Possibility of payment in any TSE (trade and service enterprise) that has a single QR-code standard, regardless of the serving Bank or operator.

TSE using a single QR code for payment, can accept payment for a product or service in any region of the Kyrgyz Republic, even in the most remote areas of the country, from any application or wallet of any operator!

### How can I pay or make transfer by QR-code through ELSOM?

- In main menu, go to the "QR/Bar code" section
- Scan a QR code/bar code with your phone's camera or select a photo/picture with a QR code from the gallery
- Enter the amount and click "Next"
- Confirm payment and it's done!

### How can TSE accept payment by QR-code through ELSOM and send details with aim to receive the transfer?

- In main menu, go to the "QR/Bar code" section
- Choose "Show my QR-code"
- Enter amount in the above field\*
- Or show QR-code to the client without amount
- You may also send QR-code to the client, in order to do this click "Share"
- Done!

\*Important, when you specify the amount, QR-code will not be changed.

Electronic wallet ELSOM continues to implement new financial products, becoming more technological and comfortable for the population!

ELSOM 24/7 call-center: (312 / 556 / 775 / 706 ) 986 000

[www.elsom.kg](http://www.elsom.kg)

@elsom\_official

## Transfers from ELSOM wallet to ELSOM wallet with NO FEE!



Dear clients,

We glad to inform you that transfers from ELSOM wallet to ELSOM wallet as well as to Finca ELSOM are made with NO FEE for your convenience!

Now, possibility of transfer and sending transfers to other ELSOM wallets has become more profitable and convenient.

Send funds FREE to the most remote areas of the KR by making several clicks!

### How can I transfer money to other ELSOM wallet?

- Open ELSOM application
- Choose «Transfers» on the main screen
- Then choose «to wallet»
- Choose «ELSOM KICB» or «ELSOM Finca Bank»
- Enter a wallet number and choose the number from the contacts
- Enter amount! Done!

\*Fee - 0%

24/7 call center of ELSOM: (312/556/775/706) 986 000

## Official opening of a new KICB office of Kyzyl-Kiya Branch!



On February 3, 2023 a grand opening of the new office of Kyzyl-Kiya Branch took place in Batken region.

The clients, partners and representatives of Kyzyl-Kiya local authorities were invited to this event.

In the new branch the customers can use a full range of services and products of the bank:

- Opening and replenishment of deposits;
- Obtaining and repayment of loans;
- Sending and receiving money transfers;
- Currency exchange;
- Opening of international and national bank cards;
- Settlement and cash service for individuals and legal entities;
- Transactions through ELSOM



(identification, withdrawal, etc.).

A high level of service and prompt resolution of daily issues will make provision of service at the new Kyzyl-Kiya Branch comfortable and safe.

“Our presence in Batken region is expanding more and more, our first branch in Kyzyl-Kiya was opened in 2013. Thanks to the support and trust of our customers, our branch has become one of the leading branches of commercial banks in the region.

The opening of a new comfortable office will allow us to improve the quality of service for our clients and increase the economic opportunities of the population in this region. This new, expanded office will allow us to serve more clients in a comfortable environment.”

– Mr. Arif Ali, Chairman of the Board of



KICB said.

The branch is located at the address: **w/n, 60 let Kirgiziyi str., Kyzyl-Kiya, Batken region**

**Working schedule of "Kyzyl-Kiya" Branch:**

Monday- Friday:  
Business day: 09:00 – 16:30  
Credit Unit: 09:00 – 18:00  
Lunch break: 12:00 – 13:00

Tel: +996 (3657) 5 40 15, +996 (3657) 5 42 61

## Installment Card Plus from DemirBank



CardPlus is a service of DemirBank, which allows you to buy in installments within up to 12 months. And the procedure itself takes 30 seconds without documents and references.

There is no need to wait for consideration, and there is no need to apply to the Bank for a loan and collect documents, buy now, and pay in installments!

You must have a Demirbank credit card with an available “Card Plus installment” limit.

Benefits:

- Instant purchase of the desired product
- Possibility to pay in installments
- More than 500 points of sale

Also, we are glad to inform you that in honor of the upcoming holidays, DemirBank is launching a special offer – installment with 0% interest for 6 months.

Period: **February 21-23, 2023, and March 6-8, 2023.**

Buy home appliances, smartphones, perfumes and much more from the partners of the Bank in installments, without an initial installment.

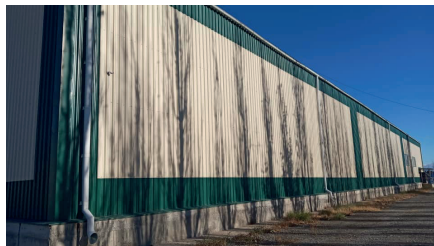
## Brief information on Oberon LLC investment project



The construction of a 2,400-ton fruit storage facility in Balykchy city was a strategic decision, as the best apples and pears grow in Issyk-Kul region in terms of taste, quality and environmental characteristics. Our company already has a number of agreements with local growers, farms and private entrepreneurs. The company is interested in increasing its storage capacity, as the available storage facilities do not cover the entire volume of provided fruit in the region, which however positively affects the substitution of suppliers.

The aim of the project is the construction and operation of a logistics centre (industrial refrigerated warehouses – controlled atmosphere fruit storages) with a capacity of 2,400 tones. Our company will be the first in the country to launch an ULO fruit storage system that allows us to store fruit for up to 270 days without loss of quality characteristics. This technology will give us a huge advantage over our competitors to carry out wholesale trade of fresh fruits in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Russia for a whole year, as well as the possibility of import substitution of products from foreign manufacturers with domestic ones.

Supply and installation agreement of industrial refrigerated warehouses – fruit storages of ULO system was signed by a Russian-German company from Germany; all equipment conforms to the European standard.



**Total project cost: 222,481.336 KGS**  
**Of which own funds: 78,481/336 KGS**  
**Of which funds from the Russian Foundation: 144,000.000 KGS**  
**Additional jobs: 30 jobs**  
**Opening of the facility: 30.03.2017**

Explanation: The construction of the building frame was carried out by a local construction company.

Supplies and installation of equipment are carried out by Plattenhardt + Wirth GmbH German Company. It should be noted that the fruit storage facility is designed to store fruit for long-term and short-term periods without loss of any taste and marketable qualities due to unique technologies borrowed from the leading German and Russian companies, having no analogues in the Kyrgyz Republic, which will give good guarantees to our Kyrgyz fruit growers to gain profit from the agricultural activity.

The CFC-free industrial refrigerator with controlled atmosphere enables the required temperature to be provided and independently regulated according to the type of fruit, so that fruit can be preserved without damage for a long time.

In addition, this industrial equipment has the technical functions of food processing, and



recycling is also economically profitable for agricultural workers, which in turn generates additional income for families.

Oberon LLC has made the construction of this refrigerator a priority since the implementation of this project will undoubtedly lead to development in the agricultural sector of the economy of Kyrgyzstan.

To date, Oberon LLC has concluded and signed many agreements on storage and processing of secondary raw materials both with farmers and businessmen of Issyk-Kul region and nearby regions, as well as with many associations of growers and gardeners, which demonstrates the effective start of work and importance of the project in the economic life of Kyrgyz farmers.

## DOSCREDOBANK IS BEST BANK OF KYRGYZSTAN 2022 ACCORDING TO AKCHABAR



Akchabar financial portal's editorial staff summed up the results of voting for the Best Bank of Kyrgyzstan 2022. Throughout the month, people of Kyrgyzstan actively voted on the website of Akchabar financial portal, as a result of voting DOSCREDOBANK was awarded the first place and received an award.

"I would like to express my gratitude for having the confidence in us! We will continue to improve and develop our products to make them as affordable, open and profitable as possible for the public" - noted Cholpon Eshberdieva, Chairwoman of the Management Board.

Reference information: Doscredobank has been operating on the banking services market for 25 years, has a wide branch network of more than 50 branches in Kyrgyzstan. From the very first days, the Bank has endeavored to contribute to the development of the economy of the Kyrgyz Republic, to create new jobs, to increase financial literacy among young people and to create favorable conditions for the development of entrepreneurship and business initiative.

In 2021 the Bank launched a special program DCB GREEN, which aims to introduce and launch environmentally friendly technologies through a range of "green products".

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## Doscredobank provided assistance to victims of the earthquake in Turkey

Doscredobank has granted aid by transferring KGS 1 million to a special account of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Kyrgyzstan, and also transferred humanitarian aid in the form of power banks and blankets to support those affected by the earthquake.

Kyrgyz people mourn and extend their heartfelt condolences to the fraternal people of Turkey. We pray for everyone's life and health!

## To get a loan from CJSC "Bank of Asia" has become even easier!

Loan "Easy" is issued for any purpose for individuals, private and self-employed entrepreneurs. To get credit you only need a passport. No collateral or guarantee is required.

The loan can be given in 15 minutes with the help of an operator.

Video identification is required to obtain the loan.

The loan is approved online

You must have social security payments to qualify for the loan.

Apply for the loan directly online at [www.bankasia.kg](http://www.bankasia.kg).

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## BIS celebrated its 12th anniversary



On December 15th BIS celebrated its 12th Anniversary with a fantastic Polynesian-inspired dance and song concert and musical Moana. It took place in Kyrgyz Dramatic Theatre.

Over 60 students participated in the show and all ticket income was donated to Educational Initiatives Fund.

Weeks before the actual show Pamela Ribon, screenwriter for the Moana movie, was a special guest at school. Students were inspired by this meeting and did an amazing job at the show.

BIS is so proud of every student, even its youngest groups for their talent, energy and enthusiasm! Every single student involved in this fantastic show had an experience that they will never forget.

## Kanda CA members nominated for the 2023 Central Asian Tech Awards



We are thrilled to announce that two Kanda CA members have been nominated for the 2023 Central Asian Tech Awards: Belyaev Artem for IT Teacher of the Year and Aigul Abdrakhmanova for Woman of the Year in IT.

Belyaev Artem, who serves as the Regional Contest Director of ICPC NERC Kyrgyzstan and CEO of Kanda CA, has made a significant contribution to the development of the IT community. He has supported and prepared teams for the World Level Programming Olympics (ICPC), and his students from some of the largest universities in the country have twice participated in the world finals of the Olympiad. In addition, Artyom is a co-author of textbooks for grades 5-6 and 7-9 titled "Informatics."

In 2022, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic recognized Artem's achievements in education, scientific and pedagogical activities, cultural and educational activities, and in the education and training of youth by awarding him the title of "Excellence in Education."

Aigul Abdrakhmanova is an Ambassador of Women Tech Makers and an advocate for increasing the participation of women in IT. She also contributes to the optimization and improvement of the internship program at Kanda CA. Aigul collaborates with IT educational organizations and universities, speaks to students, and shares insights on the necessary skills for successful interviews and employment.

## Biexpo in Novosibirsk!



Biexpo in Novosibirsk! Dear friends and partners, the beginning of this year is the beginning of our new projects. We would like to share the exciting news with you.

Biexpo company has opened an office in the heart of Russia, in Novosibirsk. And we have already announced the start of sales of our new projects:

**Dental-Expo SIBERIA**, the Dental Exhibition, from June 6 to 8.

**MedExpo SIBERIA**, Health care exhibition, June 6-8.

**STM SIBERIA**, Special Machinery and Mining Exhibition, October 17 - 19.

All exhibitions will be held in the most modern international exhibition complex "NOVOSIBIRSK Expocenter".

We will be glad to cooperate with the members of the American Chamber of Commerce and will gladly provide 10% discount for participation in the exhibitions in Novosibirsk.

Wish us luck!

## Agro Kush has launched the second phase of the project “Cluster development of broiler poultry farming”



LLC "Agro Kush", a company operating under the "Toyboss" trade mark, has started the implementation of the second stage of "Cluster development of broiler production" project. For the purpose, construction of modern poultry sites has begun in the Issyk-Kul region. These sites will accommodate 24 farm buildings (poultry houses), each capable of accommodating about 30,000 broilers. Each site will be a separate broiler farm equipped with necessary utility systems, production facilities etc. necessary for the life support of the poultry production unit.

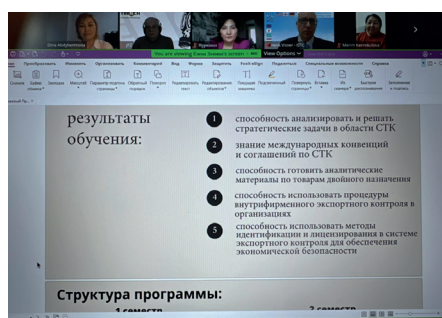
Within the Phase 1, over the past two years, Agro Kush LLC had reconstructed more than 50,000 m2 of production facilities, put into operation production equipment that meets up-to-date requirements, designed and constructed 2 new facilities. As a result of hard work, Agro Kush LLC is currently the largest domestic poultry meat producer in KR. Products manufactured by the company have a “Halal” certificate issued by the SBMK (Spiritual Board of Muslims of Kyrgyzstan) together with the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic and a certificate of compliance with the requirements of the international FSSC 22000 standard.

## Workshop on "Implementation of Master Programs on Strategic Trade Control"

On February 3, 2023 in Bishkek, an online Workshop on "Implementation of Master Programs on Strategic Trade Control" was organized for professors from the International University of Kyrgyzstan and the Kyrgyz National University named after Jusup Balasagyn who are involved in the implementation of an academic program on Strategic Trade Control (STC).

*The goal of the master programs is to train future specialists responsible for strategic trade control in the public and private sectors who can support ministries, agencies, private and other companies in their foreign economic activities, compliance with export control legislation and necessary procedures and security in general. By providing professional knowledge on STC, stronger compliance with export and import requirements throughout Kyrgyzstan is ensured.*

The objective of the Workshop was to share practical experiences, information, problems and perspectives, as well as to identify key



areas of cooperation in the implementation of Master's degree programs in Strategic Trade Control. Experts from the EU, Ukraine, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan participated in the workshop and shared their experiences in implementing educational and research projects in the field of STC.

The participants were welcomed by Prof. Erlan Bazarbaev, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs of the Kyrgyz National University, Mr. Hendrik Visser, ISTC Project Manager, and Jyldyz Sydygalieva, Director of the Center on Export Control. They noted the importance

of training competent specialists in the field of strategic trade control and expressed their support for the implementation of new master programs in STC.

During this workshop, representatives of the Central Asian Institute for Development Research (CAIDS) Prof. Askhat Nametsha and Galym Makhmedjanov, Dr. Jean Pascal Zanders, The Trench, France, Associate professors Aizhan Khoich, the L.N. Gumilev ENU and Viktoriya Gura, from Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University, and other experts made speeches.

This Workshop was organized by the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) in cooperation with the Export Control Center (Bishkek) in the framework of the EU-funded CBRN Targeted Initiative on Export Controls of Dual-Use Materials and Technologies.

## AUCA supported a rural Kyrgyz school



The American University in Central Asia handed over 20 computers to the O. Tursumatov Ber-Bulak Comprehensive School located in Ber-Bulak village in the Alamedin district of the Chui region. The school was visited by AUCA President and Vice-President of Bard College Jonathan Becker and AUCA Vice-President Chyngyz Shamshiev.

Some time ago, the school made an application to the university with a request to provide logistical assistance in providing computers. AUCA management considered this appeal and decided to support the school. On December 1, AUCA representatives visited the school and met with its students and teaching staff.

According to the director of the school Gulnara Mambetimanova, the school is designed for 191 students, but currently, 419 children study there in two shifts. Elementary school students are forced to study in three shifts. The school has one small computer science room with 11 working computers. The average class size is about 20 children. Children have to study sitting in groups of two or three at one computer, which, of course, negatively affects the learning process.

The students of the elementary classes communicated very actively with the guests and demonstrated a good knowledge of songs and poems in English and Kyrgyz.



High school students were more interested in questions about studying abroad and the conditions for admission to scholarship programs at AUCA and the AUCA Technical School of Innovation.

AUCA President Jonathan Becker spoke about AUCA's commitment to supporting young individuals from poor backgrounds and promised to organize an introductory tour to AUCA and TSI for Ber-Bulak school students.

Jonathan Becker noted: "We hope that the modest support from AUCA in the form of computers will help students succeed in their studies and prepare for adulthood. We hope that some of your students will have the opportunity to study either at the AUCA Technical School of Innovation or at AUCA. AUCA is, first of all, a Kyrgyz-American university, and we need to support the society of Kyrgyzstan. We have many programs supporting students from different backgrounds, and we, as an educational institution, must make efforts so that we benefit society."

According to AUCA Vice-President Chyngyz Shamshiyev: "A good education should be available to everyone, regardless of where you live and to which social stratum you belong. AUCA has a lot of scholarship programs that support gifted, talented students. We will tell the students of the Ber-Bulak school about them."



In response, the school's director Gulnara Mambetimanova thanked the AUCA principals for their attention and noted: "We are very grateful to AUCA. Our school has been experiencing a shortage of computers for a long time. Now we have the opportunity to give students a quality education that meets the requirements of the modern world. Thank you for responding to our request! This is an invaluable gift for a rural school. This will certainly contribute to raising the level of education."

According to the school's administration, some computers will be installed in the computer science room, and some in other classrooms so that school teachers can use them in the educational process. AUCA promised to provide technical support in the installation and maintenance of equipment, as well as in terms of software.

Cooperation between AUCA and the O. Tursumatov Ber-Bulak Comprehensive School will continue. One of the possible areas of collaboration is the inclusion of the school in one of the teacher training programs implemented by AUCA and the AUCA Technical School of Innovation.

## AUCA handed over computers to a rural school



The American University of Central Asia continues to provide aid to schools in Kyrgyzstan. This time, twenty computers were transferred to the Fedorovskaya Secondary School of the Zhayyl district of the Chui region.

Fedorovskaya Secondary School was established almost a hundred years ago, in 1928. The modern school building was built in 1963, and major repairs were carried out in 2015 – 2016. Despite the fact that the school management and local authorities make great efforts to ensure that children receive a good education, they cannot always cope with objective difficulties. So there is no computer class at all school, and students have to study computer science only in theory.

The director of the school, Chinara Anar-bekovna Makeeva, appealed to AUCA with a request for help in providing computers to the educational institution entrusted to her. AUCA administration considered this appeal and found an opportunity to help the school and donate 20 computers.

To transfer computers, AUCA President Jonathan Becker and AUCA Vice President and Chief Executive Officer Chyngyz Shamshiev visited Fedorovskaya Secondary School, met with the teaching staff and students.



This is a small school located in a one floor building. There are only 11 classes in it, from the first to the eleventh. The largest class has 27 students, the average number of students in the class is 20-23, in total 265 children study at the school.

The director of the school, Chynara Anar-bekovna, conducted a tour of the school for the guests from AUCA, the guests went into each class and talked with all the students. The younger students were just interested in communicating with the guests, showing them their skills, taking pictures with them. But the questions of the older students were already quite specific: how can I enroll in AUCA or AUCA Technical School of Innovation, how much tuition costs, which universities AUCA cooperates with, and even how can I enroll in Bard College in New York. Many of the children thanked AUCA for computers, and that now they will be able to study computer science not only in theory, but also in practice. The students received comprehensive answers to all their questions, and also received an invitation to visit AUCA.

Chynara Makeeva noted in her speech: "In our era, the computer occupies a large place in human life. Modern children cannot do without a computer. Studying in schools, as in other educational institutions, a lot of attention is paid today to the



computerization of education. A computer helps a child to assert himself in many plans, from good grades at school to satisfaction with his own dexterity and ingenuity, from communication with peers on the other side of the earth to an informed choice of a future profession. Thanks to AUCA, our children have the opportunity to use computers, which will open the way for them to an interesting and fascinating world."

AUCA President and Vice President of Bard College Jonathan Becker marked that "The American University in Central Asia is both an American and a Kyrgyz university. It is very important for us to provide support to those who need it most, to help the Kyrgyz people receive a better education. We hope that the computers donated by us will help you teach your students. But we also know that even the best computers will never replace you, teachers. Good luck to you!"

The ceremony of handing over computers was also attended by the leading specialist of the Zhayyl district Department of Education Elmira Abdykaparovna Sultankulova and a representative of the Sary-Koo village council.

The American University in Central Asia will help the school to assemble computers and set up their work, as well as organize a field trip to AUCA for high school students.

# MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



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