

**OSCE Centre in Bishkek**

**Progress report for 2016**

**1) Recap of the project objectives:**

In accordance with the Memorandum on cooperation between the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek of December 23, 2014 the following objectives set in front Aarhus Centre in Bishkek:

- interaction between environmental non-profit organizations, government agencies, local authorities, international organizations and other stakeholders;
- creation of informational-analytical and training materials, based on official information and research results for submission of an objective information to the public and systematic capacity building of all stakeholders;
- promotion of cooperation between environmental organizations and their potential partners among international and non-profit organizations.

**2) Summary of activities:**

***Activity 1.3. « Carrying out of trainings in region of Kyrgyzstan».***

***Sub-activity 1.3.1 «Administrative costs of Aarhus Centre in Bishkek»***

In April 2016 based on his own application, information assistant of Aarhus Centre in Bishkek Abdyl daev A. was dismissed. In this connection, we announced a contest for the vacant position in the media and on websites of Aarhus Centre in Bishkek, SAEPF and "Ekois". The competition jury and the date of the contest approved after submission of documents by contestants. The competition committee included senior program assistant of the Economic and Environmental Activities of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek E.Payziev, head of SAEPF, National Coordinator of the Aarhus Convention in Kyrgyzstan N.Baydakova, expert in human rights V. Baltabaeva of "LBD Consulting" organization, director of NGO "Water partnership" A.Dzhayloobaev, and head of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek A.Nurbekov.

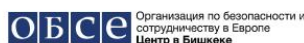
Selection procedure was carried out on 25<sup>th</sup> of May, which resulted in selection of Ibraimov Erzhan. Competition committee suggested to the head of the AC to take him to work for the post of Information Assistant.

### ***Sub-activity 1.3.2 «The conduction of training on Aarhus Convention in the regions of Kyrgyzstan»***

According to the activity plan, we developed the informational bulletin on the activities of Aarhus Centres in Bishkek and Osh for 2015-2016, in which we outlined the main directions of our activity, practical examples of use of principle of Aarhus Convention in the country, the problems in the field of the environment and the ways to preservation. In addition, there are the interview with National coordinator of Aarhus Convention in Kyrgyzstan and heads of Aarhus Centres in Kyrgyzstan. This bulletin was translated in three languages (Kyrgyz, English and Russian) and distributed in all the region of country. For creation of this bulletin, we attracted two experts of Aarhus Centre in Bishkek; the OSCE Centre in Bishkek made the translation.



КЫРГЫЗСТАНДЫН ОРХУС БОРБОРЛОРУ  
ОРХУССКИЕ ЦЕНТРЫ КЫРГЫЗСТАНА  
AARHUS CENTRES OF KYRGYZSTAN  
2015-2016



### ***Sub-activity 1.3.3. «The round table on the topic of the “Discussion of the problems in representation of environmental information. The discussion of reports and implementation of Aarhus Convention in Kyrgyzstan»***

At November 30, 2016 in the conference hall of the hotel «Smart Hotel Bishkek», a presentation of the 5<sup>th</sup> National Report on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Kyrgyz Republic was held.

The event was initiated by State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic with the participation of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek and the financial support of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. At the beginning of the round table, Deputy Director of SAEPF Ryspekov A.A. briefly spoke about the agency's activities and the activities that carried out under the Aarhus Convention.

Coordinator of the Aarhus Convention in the Kyrgyz Republic Baidakova N.S. presented a draft report, which was prepared according to the procedures of the Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention based on the previous report. It must be said that the main points of

the report are based on the proposals of the ministries and departments of the Kyrgyz Republic, which were sent to SAEPF in advance.

At the round table, the amendments were discussed as well as preliminary proposals from public organizations. National Coordinator presented the entire procedure for the preparation of the report (form filling, accented items, comments and suggestions). It is offered to all participants of round table to re-examine the draft report and submit their views before 10 December 2016, for the compilation and approval of SAEPF.

Also, the presentation of non-governmental organizations were made, whose work based on the provisions of the Aarhus Convention. Aarhus Centre in Bishkek made presentation on the theme - «Experience the Aarhus Centre of the Kyrgyz Republic to inform the public». The participants were acquainted with the activities of Aarhus Centre for the implementation of the first block of the Convention - access information.

Second block of the Convention is public participation in decision-making, which was presented by Seytkasymov M. He is head of CAREC in Kyrgyzstan, who made a presentation on «The Role of CAREC in civil society involved in the process to achieve sustainable development in the framework of the Aarhus Convention»

The third block of the Convention that is access to justice in matters relating to the environment, which was presented by Bolotbaeva V.A. She is legal expert of the Public Fund «Fund of development of law and business»

Each of the speakers spoke about the activities in their organizations, and provided detailed information on completed activities on the presented topics. At the end of the round table, a few suggestions and several amendments to the draft report were made. Participants expressed necessity in detailed study of the draft report.



#### ***Sub-activity 1.3.4. «Information and coordination training in 4 northern regions»***

In accordance with this sub-activity and approved schedule, Aarhus Centre organized and conducted four trainings on the Aarhus Convention in Talas, Issyk-Kul, Naryn and Chui regions of Kyrgyzstan.

a) On June 17, 2016 in the Talas city, Talas region together with the OSCE Centre in Bishkek with the support of the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic a round table on the topic “The participation of public organizations of Talas region in solving the problems in the environment” within the framework of the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Kyrgyz Republic was held.

Thirty guests attended the training. The regional administration and local government (aiyl okmotu), the regional department of the SAEPPF, the media, NGOs, POs, PFs and civil society attended this training. Staff of association "Alliance of NGO's of Talas region" helped to conduct round table. Welcoming words and short information about their activities made by the Deputy Chief of Territorial Administration of the Talas SAEPPF Kushubakov J.A. and the local coordinator of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek of Talas region A.Iliyazov.

The main report entitled "Summary of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek of implementation the Aarhus Convention" was made by Nurbekov A. - Director of AC Bishkek. He told the audience about the Aarhus Convention, the importance of its adoption and the main provisions of the Convention itself; about the realized activities in 2015 and the work plan for 2016. In this training, speakers gave presentations on:

- «Short information about work accomplished by Alliance of NGO's of Talas region», speaker - chairman of association T.Momunbekova, who provided information on the work of the Association, on the activities undertaken in 2014-2015 years, the problems in the field of organization of NGOs and POs, on ways of cooperation and work plan for 2016;

- «Work progress of "Jyldyz Transit for the implementation of activities in the environmental issues», speaker – head of NGO T.Momunbekova, who informed the participants of the round table on the situation of environmental problems, necessary measures for the prevention of environmental pollution of nature of Talas region, what activities are carried out by NGO for conservation of flora and fauna of the region;

- «About the United Nations report, Water and jobs», speaker K.Musabaeva – Chairman of the "Water Partnership" NGO Council, who introduced the report of the United Nations and described the main points on which there is need to pay attention within framework of employment in the conservation of water reserves in the world.

After a discussion of reports and presentations in accordance with the agenda of the round table followed:

- Memorandum of Cooperation between Aarhus Centre in Bishkek and the Alliance of NGO's of Talas region" for 2016, and joint activities in the field of conservation projects in Talas region;

- awarding with a letter of gratitude by Aarhus Centre in Bishkek for regional media, TV and radio channels of Talas region for coverage of issues in the field of environment and bring to the attention of community reliable information about condition of nature in the region.

Representatives of regional media attended the roundtable. Interview was given to regional broadcasting company "TV and Radio Channel Talas" and radio "Radio Bridge". Local newspapers "Talas turmushu", "Jany Bagyt", "AkiPress" and "NEXT TV" covered the event.





b) On June 25, 2016, a round table in Issyk-Kul region in the territory of the sanatorium “Kirgizskoe vzmorie” was held. It was organized by OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek with participation of SAEPF. Theme of round table was «Protection of the environment – the key to sustainable development of tourist business in the Issyk-Kul region». Thirty-five guests attended the round table, including representatives of the Issyk-Kul regional state administration, the regional department of the SAEPF, GIETB, media, NGOs, civil society and the business community of Issyk-Kul region.

Imanaliev D.B first deputy head of Issyk-Kul regional administration in the beginning of the round table gave welcoming speech to participants.

The roundtable included presentations and materials:

- «Brief information about Aarhus Center in Bishkek and implementation of the Aarhus Convention», speaker Nurbekov A. – head of AC in Bishkek, he presented to the audience about the Aarhus Convention, the importance of its adoption and the main provisions of the Convention itself and on implemented activities for 2015 and work plan for 2016;

- «Results of water quality assessment of the Issyk-Kul on the basis of environmental monitoring data in the framework of the project «KGZ-Water / Issyk-Kul», implemented with the support of the Government of Finland, speaker - a representative of the Program FinWaterWEI II in Kyrgyzstan, Gruzдова O. She presented the results of work for 2015 and half of the 2016 on research activities of the project.

- «KyrSEFF II - resource saving processes in the hotel complexes of the Issyk-Kul region», speaker - Project Consultant Kulumbaev J. informed the participants of the round table about ongoing KyrSEFF II projects providing information in field of resource saving materials for tourist business buildings;

- Internews «Media for the effective coverage of environment and natural resources», speaker - Zhumakadyrova E. - regional program manager of the project presented project and told work approaches in matters of public awareness and best practices for the delivery of information;

- «Activities of youth organizations in the promotion and implementation of activities related to environmental protection», speaker - Ashymova A. - Chairman of the National Council of Youth Organizations and Youth Affairs Committees presented to the audience about the activities of youth organizations in the conservation of the environment, about ongoing initiatives and activities in the region and offered to make environmental events together with business organizations;

- «Activity of PF «Clean Issyk-Kul» cleaning the bottom of the coastal zone of lake Issyk-Kul from household waste», speaker - Shamsutdinov A.- director of PF "Clean Issyk-

Kul". He presented about cleanup campaign of coastal area of Issyk-Kul Lake in 2015 and proposed to representatives of hotels and resorts to cleaning activities in their territories this year. He further showed film about cleaning the bottom of the coastal zone of Lake Issyk-Kul from household waste.

After lunch, the participants of the round table were invited to coastal area to see the work of PF "Clean Issyk-Kul" on practice. The event was attended by 30 divers-enthusiasts and technicians. Participants were shown the quantity of waste that divers could collect only on one beach.

Regional media, television and radio attended the roundtable and practical activities. Interview was given to regional broadcasting company "Channel KTRK". In addition, event was covered by local correspondents of the newspaper "Issyk-Kul Vestnik" and information portal "AkiPress".



c) In accordance with our work plan in Naryn city of Naryn region, on September 15, 2016 the round table on the topic of «Access to ecological information-the key to the stability and sustainable development of society» was conducted. This round table was organized by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and Aarhus Centre in Bishkek with the participation of State agency of Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) under the Government of Kyrgyz Republic. To the discussion in the round table were attracted to participate the representatives of local authorities, the authorities of regional governance, SAEPP, SIETS, the media, representatives of NGOs, PO, PF, and civil society.

The reports and materials presented on the round table:

- «Summary of work of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention», speaker Nurbekov A. – The head of AC in Bishkek, who presented to the audience information about the Aarhus Convention, the importance of its adoption and the main provisions of the Convention itself; on implemented activities for 2015 and work plan for 2016.
- «The role of CAREC in terms of increasing environmental problems and challenges for sustainable development» and «Cooperation concept of CAREC with NGOs in Central Asia», speaker Seydahmatov M. - Director of CAREC in the Kyrgyz Republic, who made a presentation on CAREC activities in the region, and about the planned and ongoing events.
- «The use of integrated water resources management approaches and implementation of ecosystem services», speaker Matraimov K. - Head of CAREC project in the Kyrgyz Republic, who presented the information about the work of the project, plans and

achievements of the project, about the challenges identified in the region during the implementation of the project.

- «About Water Partnership in Kyrgyzstan», speaker – K.A Musayeva - the chairman of the National Council of Water Partnership, who informed the audience about the water partnership, on the ongoing plans of the Partnership, the achievements and possibilities of participation of the countries in this Partnership.
- «Water resources of Kyrgyzstan and water use», speaker A.Dzhayloobaev. - manager of the National Water Partnership Council, who presented the information on the work of projects in Kyrgyzstan on the basis of the implementation of the Water Partnership plans.

During the discussion of the reports on the side of invited participants were raised suggestions, opinions and comments:

- The director of the NGO "Pirsalamon" Asanaliev E. expressed his opinion about the problem of coverage of information on the state of the environment, in particular on the status of water reserves at Kumtor, about the environment due to the contamination of the glaciers of the Tien-Shan.
- The chairman of the Association «NGO Alliance Tenir Too» Osmonova R. expressed the opinion that the problems in the field of environmental protection need to be constantly raised and the methods of the use of NLA towards violators should be explained to the population.
- The director of natural party «Salkyn-Tor» Toktonaliev R. raised the question for careful relation to the nature, persistently asked everyone to use all available means and resources to work with the public to promote the protection environment and the right attitude to nature.
- The representative of the State Inspectorate for Environmental and Technical Safety under KR Dzhumakadyrov M. was concerned about the increase in violations in the field of ecology, the poor work of all services on the clarification of careful attitude and participation of the population in the process.
- At the end of the round table, several participants expressed appreciation for hosting this event and wishes for a successful work.



d) In accordance with the work plan in the conference hall of Association of forest users and land users of Kyrgyzstan on October 21, 2016 was conducted the round table on the topic of «Access to ecological information - the key to the stability and sustainable

development of society». It was organized by the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek and Association of forest users and land users of Kyrgyzstan, with the support of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and State Agency of Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) under Government of Kyrgyz Republic. Thirty-two participant took part in the round table. They are the representative of the SAEPF and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Land Reclamation of the Kyrgyz Republic, NGOs, civil society and the business community in the region, as well as guests from the Republic of Mongolia Mr. Baigaliev Orchin Hogzhliyn Ba - Director of the Environmental Protection Association of environment and development «Zhasyl».

In the beginning of round table the general director of Association of forest users and land users of Kyrgyzstan, Burhanov A.M. performed with welcome speech and wishes of successful work.

The materials and reports presented on the round table:

- «Summary of work of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention», speaker Nurbekov A. – The head of AC in Bishkek, who presented to the audience information about the Aarhus Convention, the importance of its adoption and the main provisions of the Convention itself; on implemented activities for 2015 and work plan for 2016.
- «The media for effective coverage of the question of environment and natural resources», speaker – Oganov T.- the regional program manager of the project, who presented the project and informed about the methods of work in the issues of public awareness and best practices for the delivery of information;
- «The certification of responsible forest use», speaker Kenesarieva A.- specialist PO «Ecogid», the member of Association, who presented on certification in the field of forest use;
- «The water use in Kyrgyzstan: yesterday, today, tomorrow», speaker - A.Dzhayloobaev - manager of PO «Water Partnership», who presented the information about status of water reserves in the country in the context of independence of Kyrgyzstan after independence and in future;
- «The effective use of water resources in KR. The system of drip irrigation in Kyrgyzstan», speaker - Kanatbek N. - specialist NGO «Elko», member of AFLK, who provided information about caring for water, particularly in drip irrigation;
- «The sustainable livelihood of rural women: Experiences of NGO Alga», speaker Bakashova A. - program coordinator of NGO «Alga», who provided information on the work of NGOs in the field of assistance to villagers in solving social problems in the villages.

During the discussions of the reports on the side of participants were raise suggestion, opinions, and comments:

- 1) Kysanov A. Coordinator of North region of Association of forest users and land users, who expressed the opinion on awareness on problems in the field of forest, and jointly work with media representatives.
- 2) Narmatova Z. Specialist of Charity Fund “Aikol bulak” , who positively expressed on the jointly cooperation in the field of informational coverage of ecological problems and necessity of attraction to this work all of the members of Association of forest users and land users of Kyrgyzstan for providing of information.
- 3) Kanatbekov N. specialist of PO «El Eko», who spoke about necessity of assistants in the training of small organizations on correct coverage of its activities and finding ways of communication in the media;



- 4) The representative of pension “Meridian” Ibragimova S.N., offered to use the resources of pensions to the conduction of different events, including nature conservation.
- 5) J. Abdullaeva, manager of the project “SEP Helvetas” presented about the experience of her organization in the question of informing and problems that occurs in this direction.

This was followed by the ceremony of signing the Memorandum on cooperation between Aarhus Centre and Association of forest users and land users of Kyrgyzstan.



***Activity 1.4. «Conducting seminars on the Aarhus Convention and international environmental legislation for the members of parliament (MPs)»***

The implementation of this activity at the request of management of the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (the main coordinator of Convention) postponed to next year.

***Activity 1.5. «The workshop on environmental information and public participation for the local population in the Issyk-Kul region».***

***Sub-activity 1.5.1. «Hiring an expert consultant working under contract with Aarhus Centre in Bishkek and the purchase of necessary equipment».***

In accordance with the procedures of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek in late May, a competition was held for the position of an expert consultant in Issyk-Kul region, who subsequently carries out the necessary activities within the approved work plan of Aarhus Centre in Bishkek in this region. The competition committee included the senior program assistant of the Economic and Environmental Activities of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek E.Payziev, head of department of SAEPPF, National Coordinator of the Aarhus Convention in Kyrgyzstan N.Baydakova, expert in human rights V. Baltabaeva of “LBD Consulting” organization, director of NGO "Water partnership" A.Dzhayloobaev, and head of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek A.Nurbekov. Three person submitted documents for the completion, two of whom could not come for a good reason. On the proposal of members of the committee, they delegated A.Nurbekov to Cholpon-Ata to complete the interview process with the participants to make decision on them. After trip and interview, it was suggested to choose one of candidates, who was subsequently hired as an expert consultant in the Issyk-Kul region. The equipment was purchased and transferred to the Aarhus Centre for onward transmission in Cholpon-Ata.

***Sub-activity 1.5.2. «Seminar on environmental legislation. Assessment of the impact on the environment and the preservation of ecosystems. Consideration of the conditions of opening a branch of the Aarhus Center»***

In accordance with the work plan in the conference hall of Issyk-Kul territorial SAEPF management of Kyrgyzstan on November 2-3, 2016 was conducted the round table on the topic of «Development of cooperation with civil society organizations of the Issyk-Kul region in the implementation of the Aarhus Convention. Opportunities and conditions of opening a branch of the Aarhus Centre in Cholpon-Ata», organized by the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek, with the support of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and State Agency of Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) under Government of Kyrgyz Republic.

The round table were attended by 27 guests, including representatives of the Issyk-Kul regional administration, the regional department of SAEPF, SIETS, NGOs, civil society of Issyk-Kul region.

Welcoming speech for guests and participants performed by:

- Payziev E. - senior assistant of the department of economic and environmental programs of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek;
- Zhamankulov A. - an employee of Issyk-Kul regional state administration.

The main speaker of the round table was Nurbekov A. - Head of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek, who made a presentation on the topic «Brief information about the Aarhus Center in Bishkek. Objectives and work plans of the Aarhus Center for 2017»

Invitees presented suggestions, opinions and comments:

- Shestova O.A. – employee of Laboratory of Issyk-Kul territorial SAEPF management, expressed view on the need for cooperation with Aarhus Centres, promote projects and implement their plans in the region, together with all the agencies and organizations;
- Kulataev M. - Head of the Department of Management proposed to involve students from schools in various actions and tell them about conservation of natural resources;
- Bondareno L.E. - Representative of NGO "Nazik-Zamandash" expressed the opinion about the necessity of opening a branch in Cholpon-Ata and mandatory joint plans for implementation in the region;
- Kyshtobaev R. - representative of the Issyk-Kul Territorial Administration of SIETS has proposed to stricter the rules for the use of natural resources and the need for civilian control over the observance of legality in relation to the application of nature.

Then, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek presented the information on opening a branch of the Aarhus Centre in Issyk-Kul region to the round table participants. All participants approved this decision. In addition, they expressed opinions on implementation of the planned activities with the participation of all stakeholders. At the end, two video clips were shown about the collection of household waste in the Tien Shan Mountains and in Issyk-Kul Lake.

At November 3, 2016, a public hearing on the introduced documents in Parliament on pollution and measures taken for the restoration of land degradation was held.



***Activity 1.7. «Meeting with young journalists, students and members of the Press Club. Review of cooperation with partners on informing the population»***

At September 30, 2016 in the office of the Aarhus Center in Bishkek hosted a meeting of the partners of the Aarhus Center. This event was attended by:

- National Coordinator of the Aarhus Convention in Kyrgyzstan - N.S.Baydakova,
- CEO Association of Forest users and land users of Kyrgyzstan - A.M.Burhanov,
- Chief Technical Adviser of the Finnish Environment Institute and project manager -Ari Mäkilä, FinWaterWEI II
- program assistant in the KR / project KGZ-Water / Issyk-Kul - O.Gruzdova,
- project manager of FAO / GEF of project "Sustainable management of mountain forests and land resources in a changing climate" - C. Alibakieva,
- member of the Secretariat for the snow leopard - C. Kochorov
- director of voluntary movement "Clean Issyk Kul" - A.Shamsutdinov
- head of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek - A.Nurbekov
- The guests of the meeting were representatives of the media and students of the Kyrgyz State National University in the name of Z.Balasapgyn.

The occasion of this meeting was the need to discuss the state affairs in the field of environmental protection and to consider the methods of implementation of the principles of international conventions in the Kyrgyz Republic on the eve of the preparation of the Report of the Aarhus Convention.

Every participant briefly spoke about his organization; they presented about ongoing activities and plans for the future. One of the problematic areas of organizations - is the awareness of the public. Every participant mentioned this problem. Therefore, all offered the necessity for cooperation on information activities by various methods, including opportunities Aarhus Centre.

Aarhus Centre intends to cooperate more closely in this direction with partners by providing them a platform on which they can meet and discuss environmental issues, and then use the results of the meeting to inform the public about their work.

This meeting was held for the first time. All participants agreed that such kind of meetings are productive and it was decided to - to hold such meetings on a monthly basis with the participation of stakeholders, including other partners.



***Activity 1.8. «The organization of the meetings with the Advisory Council network Aarhus in Kyrgyzstan»***

On November 18, 2016 the meeting of the Advisory Council was conducted in the office of the Aarhus Center in Bishkek. The coordinator of the Aarhus Convention in Kyrgyzstan Baidakova N.S. supported the organization of this meeting. In this event the employers of SAEPF, the representatives of CAREC, NGOs, and human rights organizations took part. Ten people attended this event. The main issues were the discussion of work results of Aarhus Centres for 2016, the preparation of work plan for 2017 and preparation of national report on Aarhus Convention, which should be submitted by SAEPF to the Secretary of Aarhus Convention until December 15. During the meeting participants highlighted the events organized by the Aarhus Centre, the positive developments in the implementation of the Convention, expressed the comments and suggestions on the improvement of work with the population on access to information. The issue of necessity to strengthen cooperation with government agencies in matters of public participation in the decision-making process in the field of conservation of environment was raised. Moreover, many positive words were expressed towards the training on access to justice, especially on trainings conducted for judges.

The national coordinator presented the report on Aarhus Convention. The new amendments to the report were discussed on the meeting. During the discussion was expressed the suggestion on introducing some points in the report related to the approved amendment to the NLA of the Kyrgyz Republic.





### ***Activity 1.9. «Production and installation of information boards Aarhus Centres»***

On September-October, the design was developed and three Information board produced for installation in regions of the country. Those boards are designed for informing about activities of state environmental agencies and NGOs working in the field of the environment. In addition to information about the activity, it is expected to post world news in the field of ecology, interviews with scientists, experts, environmental experts, as well as useful advices for citizens. Today, the stands are in the storage of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. After the allocation of funds, boards will be delivered to the installation site.

### ***Activity 2. «The participation of public in the decision-making process»***

This activity include public hearing in the three regions of the country in which Aarhus Centres offered the public to discuss the draft NLA of KR projects that was developed and submitted for consideration to Jogorku Kenesh for further adoption. Therefore, we held public hearings on the amendments to the Law "On the Water" in Naryn, Chui and Issyk-Kul regions. During these hearings, the participants expressed their opinions on the amendments, made suggestions, gave comments and generally approved the amendments. Each event passed together with public representatives of SAEPPF, SIETS, regional administrations, experts and consultants, as well as media representatives.



### ***Activity 3.1. Training of judges and prosecutors on the Aarhus Convention***

#### ***Sub-activity 3.1.1. Development of a training module for judges and prosecutors***

In accordance with this sub-activity, Aarhus Centre in Bishkek invited two expert consultant who developed a module for training on issues related to «Environmental Access to justice on the environment» under the Aarhus Convention in Kyrgyzstan. The module developed by experts was presented to Aarhus Centre. The trainings were conducted in October and November in Bishkek and Osh. The Aarhus Centre in Bishkek and Training Center under the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic organized trainings based on the Memorandum of Cooperation on trainings for employees of law enforcement between the above mentioned organizations on June 29, 2015.

#### ***Sub-activity 3.1.2. «Development of information booklets on environmental law for judges and prosecutors»***

Aarhus Centres hired 2 experts to collect normative legal acts of the KR and 2 experts-designers for two months period. During this period experts done their work, which was reflected in technical assignment, developed in cooperation with representatives of the SAEPF. This collection includes all laws, Codes of the Kyrgyz Republic, adopted instructions, regulations of KR and decrees of the President concerning protection of the environment. All documents have been collected since 2009 and until 2016, inclusive.

This collection is second edition. The first was released in 2009 and covers all NLA for 2005-2009. SAEPF suggested to print out and distribute collection to regions in cooperation with UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic, who are interested and willing to offer their services. Thus, it was agreed that the creation of a collection incurs Aarhus Centre with the support of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, and printout (book and electronic) incurs UNDP. Aarhus Centre has fully complied with its obligation to create booklet. Now comes the process of preparation for publication in the printing house. It is scheduled to release this collection by the middle of December.

#### ***Sub-activity 3.1.3. «Conducting training on access to justice in environmental matters»***

In line with this activity Aarhus Centre held 2 trainings on access to justice on «Application of the Aarhus Convention and national environmental legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic». It was held in Osh on November, 4 and in Bishkek on November, 11. It was attended in total by 46 judges, referees assistants and consultants of inter-district courts of all regions of Kyrgyzstan.

This training was held in the framework of 3-stage course. It was dedicted for staff who are working in the field of law. This training is important for learning and applying the basics of environmental legislation in court cases. The main objective of this training was to tell to the participants, how to use environmental protection regulations in the practical work in accordance with the principles of the Aarhus Convention, which Kyrgyzstan has ratified and committed itself to its implementation in the country.

During the training, the following issues were considered and discussed:

1. Review of the Aarhus Convention and normative legal acts of Kyrgyz Republic in the field of ecology and environmental protection;

2. The right of access to environmental information and the right to participate in decisions affecting the environment;
3. The right of access to justice;
4. Competence of authorized bodies in the field of ecology and environmental protection;
5. Practical application by the courts of the Aarhus Convention and national legislation in the field of environment and ecology.

The module that used specially for this training was adopted and certified at the Higher School of Justice at the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic.



### ***Activities made by Aarhus Centre without use of funds.***

#### ***Sub-activity 1: Consideration of public complaints on violation of environmental rights.***

On June 9, Aarhus Center in Bishkek received e-mail letter of complaint from a resident of the Chui region, s.Chuy st. Shkolnaya, Bekzat Kamchibek Ibraimov. He wrote the letter with a request to help to solve problems with sewage, which fall near with his house from the close vicinity of 5-storey building. Sewer pipes of multistory building clogged with debris and all the discharge of effluent going over the ground and the irrigation ditch near the applicant's house. Due to non-compliance with the requirements of sanitary wastewater it flows to infield of Ibraimov B. house and create an environmental hazard to his health and his family. In this regard, he appealed to us with a request to assist in solving the problem. We have decided to







### ***Sub-activity 3: Library of the Aarhus Center***

Over the past year after the establishment of the Aarhus Centre library many visitors visited it for study available literature. Visitors were students from various educational institutions who have used books for writing essays and dissertations, representatives of public organizations, who are using our library to find necessary materials for their work, employees of SAEPF use our literature to write various reports.



### **3) Information on the achievements of the objectives**

During the implementation of activities that we conducted:

- a) 4 regional roundtables in Talas, Issyk-Kul, Naryn, Chui regions,
- b) conducted a competition for the selection of personnel for the posts - information assistant in the office of the Aarhus Center in Bishkek and an expert consultant in the Issyk-Kul region, and hired them on June 1, 2016,
- c) signed a contract and received training module on environmental law training for judges from interdistrict courts of Bishkek and Osh,
- d) signed a memorandum on cooperation with "Alliance of NGO's of Talas region" to expand our activities in the Talas region,
- e) developed and printed out the annual informational bulletin on the activity of Aarhus Centres of Kyrgyzstan for 2015-2016,
- f) developed and created the collection of normative legal acts of KR for 2009-2016, which contained all issued over the past years laws, codes, decrees of the President, Government Decrees, the provisions and instructions in the field of environmental protection,
- g) during the conduction of round table in the regions for citizens, we distributed the information materials developed with the OSCE Centre in Bishkek such as posters of Aarhus Center in Bishkek, literature, issued to us by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek for public distribution and available in our library for transfer to regional partners.
- h) conducted two trainings in Osh and Bishkek on the access to justice for the judges from interregional court of KR,
- i) conducted three public hearing in the regions of country. On this hearings participant discussed documents that was introduced in Jorgoku Kenesh, for adoption in the form of laws of the Kyrgyz Republic,

- j) conducted the meeting with young journalists, students, partners of Aarhus Centre, on which we discussed the state of public awareness on the problems of environment and developed the joint action plan,
- k) in cooperation with OSCE Centre in Bishkek were prepared 3 information boards for installation in regions; with the help of which we will inform the public about the activities in the framework of the principles of the Aarhus Convention,
- l) jointly with partners conducted three ecological action. These actions were participated by local population of Issyk-Kul region, Bishkek and students from different institutions,
- m) Our events were covered by news websites, newspapers, news programs on TV and radio channels. Among them were: Issyk-Kul regional broadcasting company «Channel KTRK», Talas regional broadcasting company «TV and Radio Channel Talas», Private «NEXT TV», radio «Radio Bridge», information site «AkiPress», newspapers «Talas turmushu», «Jany Bagyt», «AkiPress», «Issyk-Kul Gazette».

#### **4) Evaluation of the project, including the challenges and successes:**

##### ***a) Positive sides:***

- according to the results of our meetings and seminars in the past year, in all regions we have followers and partners who are using Aarhus Convention, in their work, and assist us this year in various events (round tables, media coverage of AC, consulting the people on behalf of AC, etc.);
- after the beginning of work of the consultant-expert in Issyk-Kul region, Aarhus Centre awareness has raised. Non-governmental organizations and civil society began to address to him on various issues;
- as a result of practical activities on Lake Issyk-Kul, the business community has become interested in us and our ongoing activities of clean up the coastal zone of the lake. Later on, they want to use our experience on their territories;
- after the signing of the Memorandums with partners, Aarhus Centre works through them to inform the public and government agencies in the field of environmental protection within the framework of implementation of the Aarhus Convention;
- updated website of Aarhus Centre and it is mobile friendly;
- information board of Aarhus Centre is updated each week. Board located near with our office in Bishkek. Centre receives offers on exhibiting information on various topics;
- developed the annual informational bulletin to inform the public on the activities of Aarhus Centres.
- the collection of normative legal acts of KR was developed for use by governmental agencies, court and ecological experts.
- three information boards prepared, through which the public would be informed about the work in the field of environment

##### ***b) Problematic side:***

- There is the necessity in installation of additional informational boards in the regions for increasing public awareness on the activities of Aarhus Centres;
- It is necessary to refill the new literature in the library of Aarhus Centre;

- Due to the large distance from Bishkek, there is a need to continue consideration of the opening of Aarhus Centres in the regions (Talas and Naryn);
- Start funding of Aarhus Centre in the beginning of calendar year, since it is necessary to start carrying out planned activities at the beginning of the year (February-March) and to hold all scheduled events in regular intervals throughout the year.

#### **5) The expected results:**

- we will continue to work on increase of cooperation between the governmental structures, NGOs, PO, PF and other non-commercial organizations, and also cooperate in the issues of preservation of environment and protection of ecological rights of citizens of KR.;
- we created and are updating the database of NGOs, PO, PF and other non-commercial organization, and also the experts-consultants, who can assist in the transfer of the necessary information and make an expertise in matters relating to the environment;
- we will inform the public on the problems in ecology, in which should be made a decision, accept applications and appeals of citizens who are in need of assistance on matters related to violations in the field of environment;
- jointly with SAEPP we develop the cooperation with governmental structures, offering our ideas in the issues of ecological public rights for effective collection of information in the field of ecology and environment;
- we will assist to the NGOs partners who are interested in the joint cooperation in the questions of environmental protection in the regions of the country;
- we update the group of consultant-experts, who take parts in our events. Those experts assist us to accomplish the tasks standing in front of our organization;
- using the new website we will extend the ideas of implementation of our work plans and offer to other electronic portals, materials for spreading to wider public;
- prepare a mechanism for opening a branch of the Aarhus Centre in Issyk-Kul region on the basis of the Eco Center biosphere territory «Issyk-Kul»;
- With the help of a consultant in Issyk-Kul region will conduct a variety of activities on a monthly basis as part of the approved work plan of AC Bishkek
- by signing the memorandums of cooperation with our partners, we expand our activities in all the regions of the north of the country.

**Adil Nurbekov**

**Head of Aarhus Center in Bishkek  
5 December 2016.**